



WORLD FORUM

of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers

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WFF HISTORICAL REVIEW

Constituent Assembly
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**WORLD FORUM OF FISH HARVESTERS AND FISHWORKERS (WFF)
HISTORICAL REVIEW
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Introduction

During the fourth meeting of the Coordination Committee of the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers (WFF), held in Loctudy, France, from 24-26 April 2000, it was decided to prepare a historical review. This document is for all participants of the WFF Constituent Assembly to be shared and enriched. The approach is chronological, highlighting the most significant events on the way to consolidating global solidarity among fish harvesters and fish workers. The review is based on the proceedings of the meetings that have guided the WFF institutionalization process.

Historical Background

Following the adoption of the 1982 United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), fishing in high seas became a major international problem. While the Convention allowed all states to fish unrestricted in high seas, exclusive economic rights were conferred to coastal states supported by the establishment of 200-mile exclusive economic zones (EEZs). The Law of the Sea was expected to reduce the number of distant-water fishing fleets but, contrarily, it rose to an unprecedented colossal scale. Enormous factory freezer trawlers or "mother ships" were introduced. These extended the autonomy of the fleet, which could then lengthen its stay at sea. Not long after UNCLOS came into force, the coastal states realized that fleets fishing in high seas were reducing catches in domestic waters. The use of non-selective fishing equipment created a significant amount of by-catch that was usually dumped back into the ocean with little to no survival. This practice made away with the livelihood of local fish harvesters and deprived coastal communities of their primary source of sustenance.

In 1984, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) held a conference in Rome. The goal was to reach policy definitions that addressed the critical situation of global fisheries. On that occasion, organizations from India requested to participate at the FAO conference in order to expose the crucial problems faced by artisanal and small-scale fish harvesters. However, their participation was denied based on FAO's criteria on state representation. This situation triggered India to organize a parallel conference. Representatives of fish harvester's organizations from more than twenty African, Asian and Latin American countries attended the conference. The *Comité Catholique contre la Faim et pour le Développement (CCFD)*, France, facilitated the attendance of four (4) representatives of the then prosperous French commercial fisheries in Lorient. The representatives of fish harvesters and NGOs from the South chaired the discussions. They highlighted the critical situation faced by artisanal and small-scale fish harvesters, their struggles against large trawlers that had caused the death of innocent persons, and the depletion of fish stocks by overfishing and pollution. The internationalization of fisheries had placed the North-South relationship issue in the spotlight.

Simultaneously, the NGOs that supported the 1984 meeting in Rome decided to create a network in support of artisanal and small-scale fish harvesters/workers. In 1986, the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) based in Brussels (Belgium) was established as an international NGO. It represented a global network of community organizers, teachers, technicians, researchers and scientists, 80% located in Southern countries. The ICSF presently has twenty (20) members from fifteen (15) countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe and North America. Its activities encompass communications, monitoring and research, exchange and training, and, campaign and action programs. The ICSF supported the creation

joint ventures. During its first stages, the ICSF action was centered in Senegal and contributed to the launching of *Collectif National des Pêcheurs Artisanaux du Sénégal (CNPS)*. In France, ICSF promoted the formation of *Pêche et Développement*, which contributed to the dissemination of relevant information from the South to fish harvesters in France and other French-speaking countries. This encouraged the North-South connection and dialogue.

The North's domestic fisheries were also in a critical situation. Countries like Canada, Iceland and U.S.A. were adversely affected by conflicts between their fish harvesters/workers and the international distant-water trawler fleet.

The Initiative

The FAO 50th Anniversary Symposium was held in Quebec City [Canada], FAO's birthplace, in October 1995. The event, which aimed to place people at the heart of development, i.e. to give the hunger victimized communities the means for making decisions and manage resources, also marks the early steps for the emergence of the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers (WFF).

By that time, the urgent need for fish harvesters to act together globally was clear. Recent assessments of fisheries across the globe presented a dramatic picture of the precarious state of current fish stocks and of growing marine ecological fragility, paralleled by overfishing of the seas to meet rising global food needs.

International political bodies had largely lost control of the situation: various efforts had not succeeded in even containing the continuing depletion of fish stocks.

In order to succeed, any political solution would require the full involvement of professional fish harvesters and their organizations in the development and implementation of a global strategy and action plan for ecologically sustainable fishing practices.

Governments were then working to develop universal solutions to the overfishing crisis and the destructive effects of pollution on the marine environment. Yet there was at that time no international grass-root body to act as a voice for fish harvesters to influence political and technical decision-makers who were trying to put a stop to the devastation of ocean fish resources. This vacuum had to be filled in order to salvage endangered stocks and secure the future of fishing communities.

In June 1995, prior to the FAO 50th Anniversary Symposium, the Canadian Council of Professional Fish Harvesters (Canadian Council) decided to get funding to organize a workshop parallel to the international symposium in collaboration with the fish harvesters organizations from developed and developing countries. The Canadian Council's members invited participants from Chile, India, Philippines and Senegal.

FAO failed to include fishing and fish harvesters/workers representatives in the meeting but the intervention of the Canadian Council together with International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) succeeded to get them invited to a workshop on sustainable fishing. The participants to this workshop from the North and the South agreed that the partaking of the primary stakeholders in the management of resources, particularly the fishing communities that depend on fishing for their livelihood, would only be possible through their political representation in a global forum. The participants produced the statement "Fish Harvesters Condemn Export of Fisheries Crisis" furthermore known as the Quebec City Statement which clearly stated:

1. The unregulated and uncontrolled behavior of the industrial fleets, both domestic and international, is the common enemy of fish harvesters North and South;
2. Livelihood issues are the priority for artisanal and traditional fish harvesters whose survival is threatened by industrial fleets.

The Quebec City Statement was signed by representatives of the Canadian Council of Professional Fish Harvesters (Canada), *Confederación Nacional de Pescadores Artesanales de Chile* – CONAPACH (Chile), National Fishworkers Forum – NFF (India), South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies (India), Asian Social Institute (Philippines), and *Centre de recherches pour le développement des technologies intermédiaires de pêche* – CREDETIP (Senegal).

The Quebec City Statement follows:

FISH HARVESTERS CONDEMN EXPORT OF FISHERIES CRISIS
International Committee Formed to Oppose World -Wide Depletion of Fish Stocks
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Quebec City, October 12, 1995 - Representatives of fish-harvesters organizations from four continents have come together during the past two days to find ways to stop the destruction of the planet's fisheries resources. The representatives are here to attend the International Symposium of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

In a statement issued today, the representatives declared that:

"We, the representatives of small - scale fish-harvesters from North America, South America, Africa, and Asia, express deep concern over the reckless plunder of the seas by the large industrialized fleets of the world, leading to a substantial depletion of fish stocks and endangering the food security for millions of people."

"We strongly condemn efforts by various national governments in attempting short-term solutions to their national problems by exporting these vessels to other countries under the guise of various arrangements such as joint ventures, charters, leases, licenses, or bilateral agreements. Equally culpable are the governments that allow the relocation of these vessels in their countries, ignoring the interests of their own fishermen and the safety of their fish stocks. This "exportation of the crisis" is unethical and leads to further destruction of fish stocks and the replacement of small-scale fish harvesters".

Documents published by the FAO confirm that 70% of the world's marine fish stocks are at the limits of exploitation or depleted and that such a situation poses serious nutritional problems for millions of people. The FAO also notes that small-scale fish-harvesters still account for 50% of the world's fish production.

The international meeting emphasized that the small-scale harvesters who had a long-term social, cultural, and economic dependence on fish resources are being squeezed out of existence by the operations of huge, industrial vessels that plunder their traditional fishing grounds. Consisting of 25,000 vessels worldwide, this industrial fleet from such countries as South Korea, Japan, Thailand, Taiwan, Russia, the USA, and the European community, has been targeting the developing countries for resources extinction.

As pointed out by Thomas Kocherry, Chairperson of India's National Fishworkers' Forum, the Indian Ocean is the last area in the world where fish stocks have not been over-exploited. His organization has mobilized 8 million fisher people to oppose the imminent destruction of their fisheries from the industrial trawlers that have already arrived on their coasts and the many others that are soon to be on their way. This destruction takes place with the blessing of the national government that has agreed to joint ventures with companies of the nations of origin of the industrial fleets.

In Senegal, the major coastal demersal stocks fished by artisanal fishermen are threatened by over-exploitation leading to possible extinction. The major cause is the arrival of foreign vessels, primarily from the European Community. For this reason the National Collective of Artisanal Fishermen (CNPS) with the membership of 8,500 has been mobilizing fish harvesters for the past five years to fight against the fishing agreements.

The representatives of Canadian fish harvester organizations understand well the situation of their counterparts in the developing world. Not only have they seen their fish stocks wiped out by the same kind of industrialized fleets, both foreign and domestic, but also have experience with joint ventures, authorized by the Canadian government with foreign fleets, that have significantly impacted mackerel, capelin, turbot, and other species important to Canadian fishermen.

The international representatives emphasized that solely the level of production can not measure fisheries development but that fishing practices must be sustainable and ultimately oriented toward protecting the livelihood of coastal fishing communities. They have agreed to form an ad-hoc committee that will serve as a means of communication among the organizations and as a watch-dog to mobilize international opposition to the destruction of their livelihoods.

The international meeting was organized by the Canadian Council of Professional Fish Harvesters and consisted of the following representatives:

Aliou Sall, CREDETIP, Senegal
Gastien Godin, *Association des pêcheurs professionnels acadiens*, Canada
José Valenzuela, Conapach, Chile
Thomas Kocherry, National Fishworkers' Forum, India
Chantal Abord-Hugon, Atlantic Women's Fishnet, Canada
V. Vivekanandan, South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies, India
Bill Broderick, Newfoundland Fish, Food and Allied Workers, Canada
John Sutcliffe, United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union, BC, Canada
John Kearney, Fundy North Fishermen's Association, Canada
Michael Belliveau, Maritime Fishermen's Union, Canada
François Poulin, *Alliance des pêcheurs professionnels du Québec*, Canada
Daniel Bernier, Canadian Council of Professional Fish Harvesters, Canada
Virgilio Cristobal, Asian Social Institute, Philippines

An ad-hoc committee composed of all the signatories of the Quebec City Statement was struck to organize the follow up of the meeting. The world forum would be held hosted by NFF, in New Delhi, India, during 11-15 February 1997.

The Preparation of the World Forum

In October 1996, a year after, a joint planning meeting organized by the Canadian Council and National Fishworkers Forum – NFF (India) was held in Ottawa, Canada. The main fisheries issues in both countries were then overviewed and after a brief round table discussion, the participants agreed upon the advancement on the planning of the world forum as well as the clarification of its objectives. The discussion process begun in Quebec City was resumed with focus on:

- the continuity of developing opposition to the worldwide depletion of fish stocks by industrial fleets;
- the forming of a worldwide solidarity organization of fish harvesters and fishworkers as a natural corollary to the globalization of exploitation; and
- the preserving and nurturing of the fishing communities worldwide that depend on fish resources for their livelihood.

The Quebec City Statement was reaffirmed as a clear declaration of purpose of the world forum.

The proposed worldwide solidarity organization had to be different from any existing NGO providing support to fish harvesters organizations. The difference would rely on:

- its explicit political statement as an act of political organizing of the fish harvesters/workers movement at the world level;
- its links to the national mass movements of fish harvesters/workers organizations free of any financial constriction.

The relations between this new type of organization and the NGOs supporting fish harvesters/workers movements would have to be defined opportunely through joint discussions.

The Organizing Committee

The Canadian Council and the National Fishworkers Forum had been active to follow up as the organizing committee for the preparation of the world forum meeting to be held in India.

The *Comité des pêches du quartier du Guilvinec* (France) met with the organizing committee and demonstrated interest to participate in the world forum.

The Canadian Council assumed the secretariat for the preparation of the forum and looked after invitations and travel arrangements. NFF assumed the organization of the conference in New Delhi (India). In the meantime Thomas Kocherry would visit Europe in a fundraising mission and François Poulin would seek funding in the Americas.

The Criteria for Membership

Precision was made about the organizations that should be invited to the world forum, which could be summarized as follows:

- Membership-based organizations seeking to broadly represent fish harvesters and fishworkers in their countries, i.e. not limited to specific fleets or narrow interests (species groups, gear types, etc.);

- Organizations adhering to the objectives of professional fish harvesters, i.e. owner-operator organizations;
- Local organizations where no national organization exists.
- Women involved in fisheries or in coastal community organizations when not members of formal fish harvesters and fishworkers organizations;
- Fisheries support and community development NGOs;
- Trade Unions;
- Environmental organizations;
- Scientific and research institutions;
- Resource persons.

The Canadian Council committed to identify organizations in geographic areas where potential participation showed up poor or totally missing (e.g. Central America, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, and some African countries).

The Funding

Some organizations should be approached for funding requests; among them IUF and ITF, two international trade secretariats of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), through the Canadian AutoWorkers (CAW).

The following organizations contributed financially to the funding of the Delhi Conference:

Bread of the World (Germany)
CAW Social Justice Fund (Canada)
Comité Catholique contre la Faim et pour le Développement (France)
Entraide et Fraternité (Belgium)
Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer pour le Progrès de l'Homme (France)
Government of British Columbia (Canada)
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador (Canada)
Human Resources Development Canada
Misereor (Germany)
Organisation Catholique Canadienne pour le Développement et la Paix (Canada)

As a matter of principle, the initiative must avoid undermining the traditional funding sources of support organizations. The world forum should generate funds from within the mass movement of fish harvesters/workers and its allies within the broader international movement to be financially self-sufficient.

Delhi, India – The birth of the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers

The initiative of Quebec City became a reality. The World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers (WFF) conference took place during 17-21 November 1997, in Delhi, India. On 21 November 1997, with this first conference the WFF emerged as an international body with the central aim of protecting the livelihood and resources of fishing communities around the world. The Indian Social Institute (ISI) housed the historic global meeting. One hundred ninety (190) persons coming from twenty-six (26) countries participated in a way or another to the meeting. Forty two (42) of them were delegates representing fish harvesters/workers organizations and

fifty nine (59) were observers from the same organizations with a few exceptions of observers who acted in place of support entities. The rest were resource persons, rapporteurs, translators, advisors, volunteers, etc. whose invaluable contribution made up the success of the meeting (Appendix 1).

The Opening of the Meeting

Thomas Kocherry (NFF, India) delivered the welcome speech. He highlighted the successful joint action of the NFF (India) and the Canadian Council (Canada) that responded to the leadership and foresight of the heads of those organizations, Harekrishna Debnath and François Poulin, respectively. He welcomed the honorable Indrajit Gupta, Minister of Home Affairs of the Government of India, who helped the participants coming from the neighboring countries Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka get their visas. He also welcomed three of the women delegates: Danielle Le Sauce (France), Thérèse Sengor (Senegal) and Christine Hunt (Canada).

Christine Hunt presented a gift from her aboriginal community to Indrajit Gupta.

A troupe from the fishing community of Versova, Maharashtra, executed a dance whose theme highlighted the theme of fish, fish harvesters, the Sea as a goddess and source of life, and the hope to get plenty of fish by praying.

The honorable Indrajit Gupta, Minister of Home Affairs of the Government of India, inaugurated the meeting. His speech highlighted the world fisheries crisis and the depleting effect on fish populations caused by the worldwide operation of 25 000 huge factory ships. He also mentioned the enforcement of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and how the granting of fish licenses to foreign fleets acted against its objectives originating the so called "fish wars". He criticized the overfishing, the waste of protein originated from the discard of by-catch, the damage of marine habitats by destructive gears, the massive coastal pollution coming from industries, oil spilling, sewage dumping, etc. He welcomed the WFF initiative as probably the first one to challenge Globalization, to hurdle its inexorable bypassing of human beings. He congratulated the audience on their fight and struggle for survival.

Harekrishna Debnath, chairperson of the NFF, as well as Earle McCurdy, president of the Canadian Council, addressed encouraging speeches to the gathering.

Humberto Mella (Conapach, Chile), Mohamed Ali Shah (Pakistan), Danielle Le Sause (Coastal Women of Brittany, France), and Thérèse Senghor (CNPS, Senegal) responded on behalf of the fish harvesters/workers of their respective countries. They all were confident that the meeting would work efficiently to build the basis for a sustainable future in the fishery.

Christine Hunt (Native Brotherhood of British Columbia – Canadian Council) made a vote of thanks and shared some of her tribe's traditions and cultural links to fish. She presented Thomas Kocherry with some books.

Harekrishna Debnath (NFF) and Earle McCurdy (Canadian Council) were nominated as co-chairs of the plenary.

The Steering Committee

The Organizing Committee proposed the forming of a steering committee to guide the entire process during the meeting. It would include the members of the current Organizing Committee and five other members representing the five continents. The final roll was:

From the Organizing Committee:

François Poulin (Canada)
Earle McCurdy (Canada)
Thomas Kocherry (India)
Harekrishna Debnath (India)

Regional representatives:

Africa – Dao Gaye (Senegal)
Asia – Charles Capricho (Philippines)
Europe – Arthur Bogason (Iceland)
Latin America – Silvia González Sánchez (Mexico)
North America – Pietro Parravano (U.S.A.)

A drafting committee was also formed; it consisted of 5 members: Satish Babu, Aparna Sundar, Gastien Godin, François Poulin and John Sutcliffe.

The rapporteurs of the meeting were nominated: Brian O’Riordan, Béatrice Gorez, V. Vivekanandan, Aparna Sundar, and James Smith.

Quebec City to Delhi

François Poulin (Canadian Council) reminded the absence of fisheries and fish harvesters/workers in the agenda of the FAO 50th Anniversary Symposium held in Quebec City (Canada) two years earlier and compared it to the present meeting that was exclusively organized for fish harvesters/workers representatives. He stressed the opportune intervention of the Canadian Council, which allowed the definition of common problems and threads as well as the need to get organized in an international network to counteract the detrimental action of large fishery corporations.

Thomas Kocherry in turn spoke about the follow up of Quebec meeting, the difference and common interest between WFF and ICSF, and how the fishing community of the world became more and more interested in the movement.

The Keynote Papers

The theme of the papers presented was relevant to crucial issues for the international fishing community and the speakers showed expertise on the matter.

TITLE OF THE PAPER	Author	Presented (Date)
National Resources Management and Property Rights Regimes	John Kurien, Institute of Development Studies (India)	17/11/97
Global Fishery Trends and their Implications for Fishing Communities	Peter Weber, University of California (U.S.A.)	17/11/97
International Instruments on Fisheries and of Relevance to Fisheries	Rolf Willmann, FAO (Italy)	17/11/97
Wither Life and Livelihood	Nalini Nayak	17/11/97
Common Property Fishing Rights: Coastal Resources and Coastal Communities	Parzival Copes, Simon Fraser University, BC (Canada)	18/11/97

The Working Groups

The Plenary broke up into five (5) language groups:

- English I, II and III
- French
- Spanish

They were intended to reach definitions on the subjects circulated by the Steering Committee relevant to:

- 1) the need for the establishment of the global organization;
- 2) its objectives and structure;
- 3) the financial approach;
- 4) the nature of the membership; and
- 5) the dissemination of the experience of the meeting to the sector of the international fishing community not represented there.

Exhaustive discussions were led within each group to reach consensus on the recommendations about the various subjects, and group reports were presented to the drafting committee mandated to issue the first draft of the WFF Charter to be submitted to the Plenary by the Steering Committee.

The WFF Charter

On 20 November 1997, the first draft of the WFF Charter entitled "World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers – Charter Proposed by the Steering Committee" was submitted to the Plenary and a new break-up into the language groups was allowed to discuss the draft document. The general point was the need of definition of all terms. Once more, the groups submitted a detailed report of the discussions to the drafting committee intended to modify the first draft of WFF Charter.

On 21 November 1997, the second draft of the WFF Charter entitled "Interim Arrangement for the Operation of the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers" was presented to the Plenary. The following delegates drew new comments asking for modifications and more accurate definitions:

Mandla Gxanyana (Food and Allied Workers Union, South Africa),
Humberto Mella (Conapach, Chile),
André Le Berre (*Comité Local des Pêches Maritimes du Guilvinec*, France),
Angela Sanfilippo (Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Association, U.S.A.),
Barbara Stickel (Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, U.S.A.),
Earle McCurdy (Canadian Council, Canada),
Arthur Bogason (National Association of Small Boat Owners, NASBO, Iceland),
Mohamed Saeed (Fishermen's Cooperative Society Employees Union, Pakistan), and
Jesuretinam Christy (Campaign against Shrimp Industries, India),

Some other participants presented suggestions as well:

Andrew Johnston (South African Commercial Fisheries Corporation, South Africa),
Torleif Paasche (Norwegian Fishermen's Association, Norway),
Claudio Nizama Lima (*Federación de Integración y Unificación de los Pescadores Artesanales del Perú*, FIUPAC, Peru),
Vincent Jain (SIFFS, India),
Nalini Nayak (Sadanand, India), and
Sebastian Mathew (ICSF, India).

Later on, the same day, a final version of the WFF charter was presented under the title "Final Interim Arrangement for the Operation of The World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers", which was accepted by voting with three abstentions and no votes against it.

The WFF objectives included in the charter follow (Appendix 2 – WFF Interim Charter):

**World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers
Delhi, India, 17-21 November 1997**

**FINAL ARRANGEMENT OF THE INTERIM CHARTER FOR THE OPERATION OF THE
WORLD FORUM OF FISH HARVESTERS AND FISHWORKERS**

Preamble

The fishing communities of the world are uniting in the World Forum of Fish-harvesters and Fishworkers to uphold their human rights, social justice and culture; affirming the sea as source of all life; and committing themselves to sustain fisheries and aquatic resources for future generations, protect their livelihood and secure preferential access for small and medium-scale, artisanal, and traditional fishers, and indigenous people, to coastal resources on which they have historically depended.

I. Objectives

The World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers will work to:

1. Protect, defend and strengthen the communities that depend on the fishery for their livelihoods;
2. Assist member organizations to secure and improve the economic viability and quality of life of fish harvesters, fishworkers and their communities;
3. Recognize, protect and enhance the role of women in the fishing economy and in the sustenance of the community;

4. Create an understanding of the resource as a common heritage of humanity and ensure, through sustainable fishing practices, conservation and regeneration of the marine and inland resources and ecosystems, that it is passed on to future generations;
5. Protect fishing communities, fish resources and fish habitats, such as mangroves, from both land based and sea based threats. For example, displacement by tourism, pollution, including the use of the sea as a dumping ground for toxic waste, destructive industrial aquaculture, overfishing and destructive fishing practices;
6. Establish and promote the rights of fishing communities to their customary territories under their national jurisdiction in the coastal zone for fishing and habitation;
7. Promote a legal regime that will ensure the traditional and customary rights of fishing communities to the fishery under their national jurisdiction;
8. Promote the primary role of fish harvester and fishworker organizations in managing fisheries and oceans, nationally and internationally;
9. Promote food security both locally and worldwide through sustaining fish stocks for the future, and by reserving fish for human food;
10. Promote equitable representation of fish harvesters and fishworkers organizations in all appropriate international and regional fora and advocate for their recognition;
11. Play a monitoring role to ensure compliance by states and transnational corporations with relevant international agreements; oppose any trade agreements that threaten the livelihoods of fishers;
12. Prevent the export of crises of resource collapse and of technologies and practices that lead to these crises;
13. Provide support for national and international struggles that are consistent with the objectives of the World Forum;
14. Encourage, assist and support fish harvesters and fishworkers to organize where they are not organized;
15. Promote the right to social security, safe working conditions, fair income and safety at sea, for fish harvesters and fishworkers, including recognition for them as seafarers;
16. Improve the communication between fish harvesters and the scientific community through exchange of knowledge and science;
17. Acknowledge and enhance the unique culture of fishing communities.

The WFF General Coordinator

On 21 November 1997, nominations were taken for the election of a general coordinator. Barbara Stickel (PCFFA, U.S.A.) proposed Thomas Kocherry (NFF, India) and was seconded by Tarun Kumar Patnaik (Orissa Maritime Fish Producers Association, India) and Mohammad Ali Shah (All Pakistan Fisherfolk Federation, Pakistan). The proposal was unanimously accepted by the Plenary and Thomas Kocherry became the WFF General Coordinator.

Several delegates congratulated the new elected coordinator who thanked the Plenary and exhorted the participant to undertake and coordinate actions.

The WFF Action Plan – The celebration of the World Fisheries Day (WFD)

On 21 November 1997, the WFF Action Plan was submitted for discussion.

Arthur Bogason (NASBO, Iceland) and Sebastian Mathew (ICSF, India) raised the need of precision relevant to the object of WFF action: the WFF should not oppose only to factory trawling but also to any destructive fishing gears.

The proposed celebration of a WFD was a main issue of discussion: it should not be seen from a rigid standpoint but dialectically approached according to each country's reality. Earle McCurdy (Canadian Council) suggested the celebration to take place on 21 November 1998. Finally, it was decided to adopt the 21 November as the date to celebrate WFD every year beginning from November 21, 1998.

The WFF Coordination Committee

On 21 November 1997, the WFF Steering Committee became the WFF Coordination Committee. The members were:

Thomas Kocherry (NFF, India)
François Poulin (Canadian Council, Canada)
Arthur Bogason (NASBO, Iceland)
Charles Capricho (Pamalakaya – Pilipinas, Philippines)
Harekrishna Debnath (NFF, India)
Dao Gaye (CNPS, Senegal)
Silvia González Sánchez (RNPJVR, Mexico)
Earle McCurdy (Canadian Council, Canada)
Pietro Parravano (PCFFA, U.S.A.)

That same day, at its first meeting the members of the Coordination Committee decided to invite Humberto Mella (Conapach, Chile) to be part of the Coordination Committee and his name added to the roll of members of the committee.

They also decided to

- designate François Poulin as the WFF Assistant Coordinator
- use the Canadian Council office temporarily as the WFF communication office
- call a meeting of the committee as soon as possible to plan and implement the WFD and the interim charter
- contact organizations from countries that were absent at the meeting; the task should be achieved by each member of the committee

The Resolutions

Three resolutions were passed (Appendix 3):

- Human Rights of Fishworkers in South Asia
- Fisheries Agreement between European Union and Senegal
- A call upon Regional Governments and Groups Concerned for the Release of Detained Fishermen and to End the War, proposed by the Sri Lanka delegation and the Asian Group

News from Latin America

The Chilean delegation shared the good news just received about the subscription of the Decree-Law 161 in their country, which made official the existence of small-scale fish harvester coastal settlements. This was the result of a long and intense struggle of sixty thousand (60,000) fish harvesters through CONAPACH. They requested that WFF made public its support to the Chilean struggle and were happy to announce their victory in the Supreme Court case against the factory trawler "American Monarch", the largest one in the world.

MONAPE from Brazil regretted its absence and sent good wishes ratifying its commitment to WFF.

An Approach to the Indian fish harvesters/workers reality

Several activities were organized aiming to share the Indian fisher people reality with their peers coming from other countries. A valuable contribution to this purpose was the presentation of the documentary film "Fishing in a Sea of Greed" on the Indian fishworkers' struggle against joint ventures. The filmmaker was Anand Patwardhan a leading chronicler of many movements and struggles.

Another vivid experience for the delegates was their participation to the exposure program to Mumbai, which included visits to the fishing communities of Versova, Uttan and Cuffe Parade.

The Indigenous Fishing Communities from the Pacific

Pauline E. Tangiora (New Zealand) commended Thomas Kocherry for turning down the Pew Fellowship because it was founded by Sun Oil Company, an environmental polluter. She regretted the absence of representatives from the Pacific, which paradoxically represents two thirds of the world's oceans. She presented the paper "Who has the Responsibility for the Survival of Traditional Indigenous Fisher Communities?"

The Inauguration of the WFF

On 21 November 1997 the WFF was inaugurated and Lucie Breau (Canada) delivered the welcome speech.

Thomas Kocherry, who formally inaugurated the WFF, spoke about the universal role of the fishing community as custodians of the sea and the fish resources, which united the fisher people.

Angela Sanfilippo (U.S.A.) identified the fisher people of U.S.A. with the international fishing community: they had the same sufferings, the same worries, and thus the same goals to reach.

Silvia González Sánchez (Mexico) on behalf of the fisher people of Mexico extended support and cooperation to the WFF while Arthur Bogason (Iceland) expressed that the meeting was a positive experience that unified and strengthened the fishing community. Iceland, a small country depending on fishery for livelihood had to preserve it by any means.

Harekrishna Debnath delivered the closure speech. He thanked each and everyone:

- François Poulin under whose stewardship was organized the dialogue in Quebec
- The funders
- The honorable Shri Indrajit Gupta, minister of Home Affairs of the Government of India
- The dancing group
- The participants
- The resource persons
- The translators, rapporteurs and the drafting committee
- The volunteers
- The organizers of the exposure program to Mumbai
- The ISI and all the Indian organizations that supported the event
- Anindita Chakrabarti and the WFF office team, and
- Thomas Kocherry for his role in the whole process of the creation of WFF.

The first act of the WFF

The rally to the Parliament House organized for November 21, 1997 was a proposal made by the chairs of the meeting the day before. Its purpose was to submit a memorandum to the Prime Minister of India demanding the withdrawal of the Aquaculture Authority Bill introduced in Parliament to override the Supreme Court Judgement against all polluting non-traditional aquaculture farms (Appendix 4). After the conclusion of the WFF inauguration ceremony, in the evening of 21 November, the participants went to Jantar Mantar and took a torchlight procession to the Parliament House to accomplish their mission. That was the first public action of the newborn **World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers**.

Conclusion

All the participants thanked and recognized the work of National Fishworkers Forum.

The Business of the Coordination Committee (November 1997 - October 2000)

Since the first meeting of the WFF Coordination Committee held in Delhi (India), on 21 November 1997, the committee has met three more times. One of the decisions of the committee in that first meeting was to be called as early as possible to plan and implement the WFD and the Interim Arrangement Charter of the WFF.

Namur, Belgium – Second WFF Coordination Committee Meeting

The WFF Coordination Committee held its second meeting in Namur, Belgium, during October 5-8, 1998. This gathering is known in WFF circles as Namur Meeting.

The Attendance

Members of the committee present (9):

Thomas Kocherry (WFF General Coordinator, India)
François Poulin (WFF Assistant Coordinator, Canada)
Arthur Bogason (Iceland)
Charles Capricho (Philippines)
Harekrishna Debnath (India)
Dao Gaye (Senegal)
Silvia González Sánchez (Mexico)
Humberto Mella Ahumada (Chile)*
Pietro Parravano (U.S.A.)

* Absent for the first two days

Observer (1):

Daniel Bernier (Canada)

Translators/facilitators (2):

Béatrice Gorez
Brian O'Riordan

The Agenda

The central issues of the agenda were the planning the WFD and the WFF institutionalization, which included the drafting of the WFF Constitution (Membership, Finance, Regional Councils, Communications, Links with international organizations, etc.) before the calling of a constituent assembly. Planning the WFD was a priority being that the celebration was imminent. Notwithstanding, the agenda included several other very important points of debate as:

- Presentation of the WFF report including the financial statements
- The preparation of the WFF Constituent Assembly
- Specific fishery and fishery-related issues affecting the world fishing community
 1. EU – ACP Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries Agreements
 2. FAO Consultation on Management of Fishing Capacity, Shark Fisheries and Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries [October 26, 1998]

World Fisheries Day Celebration

The project of a WFD celebration was creating enthusiasm all over the world: it would be a political assertion by the international fishing community. The WFF Coordination Committee decided issuing a WFF statement on the WFD that would be published by all the WFF member organizations. The statement would highlight the depletion of fish resources, the WFF statement on over-capacity, the worldwide actions that were being taken, and the political assertion of the fishing communities the world over to own the water bodies and the fishing implements, manage the fish resources and protect themselves.

Dao Gaye (Senegal), Arthur Bogason (Iceland) and Charles Capricho (Philippines) explained the preparations that were being carried out in their respective countries.

Pietro Parravano (U.S.A.) explained the original way they would celebrate WFD with kind of inverted commerce, a fish give-away day. He spoke about the hardships of the fish harvesters in U.S.A. to make their livelihood and also mentioned the dissemination of information about WFF to the fishing community and how they welcomed it.

Harekrishna Debnath (India) spoke of the dissemination of the objectives of WFF to the fishing communities all over India and the activities programmed to celebrate WFD: two hundred thousand (200,000) fish harvesters/workers were expected to gather in Bombay on November 21. He also spoke about the violations of the coastal zone regulations in India, how they were being fight and the role of Thomas Kocherry as part of the National Coastal Zone Management Committee.

Silvia González Sánchez (Mexico) referred to the meetings conducted by her organization with fish harvesters to make them know the WFF objectives and also to the plans they made to celebrate WFD when they hosted their Chilean peers representatives. She said it was a happy coincidence the WFD celebrations just a day after a Mexican national holiday.

François Poulin (Canada) introduced the concern on the potential reduction of the number of fish harvesters in British Columbia, on the Canadian West Coast, as a result of the policy that was being worked out by the Government. He said it risked to replicating in Eastern Canada due to the cod moratorium. Daniel Bernier, in turn, informed that to honor the WFD celebration in Canada, CCPFH would campaign in Ottawa against that displacement in the fishing population. The project aimed to raise public concern on the importance of the survival of coastal communities and the risks of their disappearance. It included the crafting of orange flags symbolizing the survival of coastal communities by school children, elderly persons in retirement homes and general public sensitized during the campaign. A meeting attended by representatives of fish harvesters/workers organizations from all over Canada was being organized to be held in Ottawa, in the House of Commons, with the scope of working on a

possible new national fisheries policy. The coastal community and the public would be sensitized on the coastal communities' right to fisheries management. International resource persons as John Kurien (India) and Aliou Sall (Senegal) had already been invited.

Humberto Mella Ahumada (Chile) said that since the WFF was a new entity, it would take time for a real WFD campaign. He shared information on the situation in his country. He spoke about the ITQ problem and the industrial fleets, the buy up of quotas that victimized small-scale and traditional fish harvesters, the use of fresh fish and by-catch to make fishmeal, and the need of protection of the 12-mile territorial waters for the sole access of small-scale fish harvesters.

The WFF office would have a feedback through newspaper cuttings, press releases and any other informative materials from the member organizations concerning all the actions aimed to WFD celebrations wherever they might occur.

The Institutionalization of the WFF

Namur meeting decided to register WFF both in India and in Canada as a no-profit-no-loss society, and also in France or the U.S.A. according to the location of WFF treasury. Consequently, there was a need to formulate the WFF Interim Charter into a legal format adequate for registration. Tomas Kocherry and François Poulin, as general coordinator and assistant coordinator respectively (from now on the coordinators), were responsible to achieve the project.

Constitution

A brain storming session was held to raise some of the issues to be included in the draft constitution for the constituent assembly. They centered the autonomy of the organization; the powers, functions and roles of both the general assembly and the coordination committee; the decision-making process, the regional councils, the funding and the membership, among others. The coordinators were mandated to prepare a draft constitution by the end of January 1999 that would be circulated to the members of the Coordination Committee for comments and suggestions. By July 1999 a second draft would have to be issued for a new revision by the Coordination Committee. By March 2000 the final draft had to be ready for presentation to the WFF Constituent Assembly which was programmed to take place either in France or Iceland, during 2-6 October 2000.

Membership

The list of members approved prior to the date of the meeting was ratified (Appendix 5).

Finance

Several decisions of the meeting concerned the financial aspects of the organization. A bank account would be opened under the name of WFF to be operated by the coordinators and the treasurer. The audit of accounts, the operation of funds and the signature requirement process was ruled. André Le Berre, president of Comité local des Pêches Maritimes du Guilvinec (France) was the first nominee, as treasurer; Pietro Parravano, president of PCFFA (U.S.A.), was the second nominee.

The amount of the membership fee was set at 250.00 US\$ per year, beginning in 1998. This fee would have to be paid by all the organizations that previously filled out the WFF agreement

form as well as by any other organization joining the WFF before the end of 1998 whatever the organization or country of location were.

The funds originating from membership fees would be used for the day-to-day running of the office and other organizational work relevant to the WFF constituent assembly.

Communications

The CCPFH committed to facilitate free of cost the following:

- the translation of the English version of communications received from WFF office in India into the two other WFF official languages, i.e. French and Spanish; and
- the forwarding of the same to the French and Spanish-speaking members of the WFF.

The Links with International Organizations

The WFF and the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)

Brian O'Riordan on behalf of ICSF presented the conclusion reached by the organization's animation team at its Ghana meeting, held in August 1998, concerning the relationship between ICSF and WFF: the organizations played two very different roles although complementary. Anyway the formalization of the relationship between both organizations had to be first agreed upon by their respective decision-making bodies, i.e. ICSF Animation Team and WFF Coordination Committee.

He presented the ICSF as a supporting organization to help the fishing communities and the fish workers organizations cope with the impact of globalization from a perspective of equitable, gender just, self reliant and sustainable fisheries. He listed the programs proposed by the ICSF Animation Team and the priorities set for the next three years.

Other international organizations

The WFF project outline as well as the audited financial statement submitted by CCPFH would be sent to different international organizations like FAO, ILO, CARITAS Canada, WHO and other bodies who were in line with the WFF objectives and actions.

The WFF Report

Thomas Kocherry, the WFF general coordinator, submitted an overview of the business of the WFF since its formation at Delhi in November 1997. The report highlighted that the emergence of the WFF was very welcomed by those concerned in safeguarding and promoting the interests of fishworkers whose livelihood depended on fish resources. It was a first step but the scale was global because WFF concerns were universal. The Earth Society Foundation (NY, U.S.A.) honored Thomas Kocherry with the Earth Trustee Award in the International Year of the Oceans. The General Coordinator of WFF accepted the award on behalf of the 120 million fish harvesters/workers of the world.

A new office was set-up for the WFF in Thiruvananthapuram, India. The moving from New Delhi where the WFF initially functioned responded to the proximity to the NFF and the fisherpeople

but the premises was also rent-free thanks to the trustees of the Paripalana Trust who allowed the facility.

The list of WFF members reported until June 5, 1998 included twenty (20) fish harvesters/workers organizations from (16) countries. The number of members was below that of participants at Delhi meeting, which showed up the need of some action to promote new membership.

The WFF office communicated regularly with Delhi participants and even achieved the distribution of the official WFF newsletter. This allowed the sharing of information concerning the WFF preparations in India, Malaysia, Pakistan, South Africa, and Sri Lanka.

The collaboration of the WFF with other organizations on both sides of the Indo-Pakistani border boosted the release from jail of 192 Indian and Pakistani fish harvesters by the respective governments. In a similar way a number of Indian and Sri Lankan fish harvesters were freed and the WFF supported the process by addressing letters to the governmental authorities concerned in both countries.

A special collaboration was developed between WFF and ICSF. Thomas Kocherry, the WFF general coordinator, was invited to address the international participants at the ICSF workshops organized on its 10th anniversary (February 17-19, 1998) about the formation of WFF. The contact with ICSF-Brussels allowed approaching the UK and Madagascar fisheries developments.

The report recalled the goal of reaching the WFF self-sufficiency. The need of working out the modalities of membership dues and other ways of fundraised was evident.

The second WFF Coordination Committee meeting was made possible by a subsidy granted by Entraide et Fraternité (Belgium) and a loan sanctioned by ICSF. Logistically, the meeting was facilitated by the arrangements of the coordinator of Coalition of Fair Fisheries Agreement (CFFA).

The WFF Constituent Assembly

Namur meeting initiated the first steps in the preparation of the WFF Constituent Assembly. Many of its decisions centered the issue and would contribute to draft the Constitution; others as funding, logistics, etc. were relevant to the organization of the meeting itself.

Participation

There was a brain storming session on this matter. Three options (models) were proposed:

- Model 1: One national vote whatever the number of organizations by country was;
- Model 2: One national vote in principle but nations whose membership was higher than a predetermined amount would be entitled to two votes; and
- Proportional model: A number of votes increasing proportionally to the membership according to predetermined membership intervals

These three models would have to be circulated to all the WFF members with the request to choose one of them and return it with comment to the general coordinator. The selected model would have to be rationally supported when returned to the coordinator.

Membership Promotion

New membership to the constituent assembly was to be given by the general coordinator and the assistant coordinator according to the corresponding regional coordinator previous verdict. In the eventuality of discrepancy between the two coordinators, the case should be submitted to the rest of the WFF Coordination Committee members and a majority vote would grant the membership.

The members of the committee decided to share the responsibility of recruiting more organizations to the fold of WFF. This would be assumed according to the individual's possibilities: Dao Gaye (Senegal) and Béatrice Gorez (CFFA) would approach African organizations (Madagascar, Mauritius and South Africa); François Poulin and Humberto Mella would contact Brazilian organizations (MONAPE, etc.) as well as organizations in Spain; Pietro Parravano would try to get in touch with organizations in Australia, Japan, Ireland and Italy; Arthur Bogason would continue his already initiated steps toward calling together all the organizations in the Scandinavian countries; and Brian O'Riordan would look for different organizations in UK and Ireland.

Funding

Thomas Kocherry would write to all the WFF members to announce the constituent assembly. An explanation of WFF Interim Charter Agreement as well as the decisions of the present meeting would back this announcement. The main objective was to request contributions towards the WFF funds according to the Charter. WFF members were also expected to contribute generously to the creation of a reserve fund of 30,000 US\$ intended to face not only the needs for the realization of the constituent assembly but also those of the Coordination Committee third meeting. The balance account would be collected from those organizations that honored the WFF objectives. The strategy in this sense was to contact all the sponsor agencies that supported the Delhi meeting, to thank them, present the Delhi proceedings and the audited financial statement as well as forward details on the formation of the constituent assembly.

Some of the members of the committee volunteered to do arrangements in order to acquire additional funds for the assembly. Pietro Parravano (U.S.A.) would try to contact the World Health Organization (WHO) while Arthur Bogason (Iceland) would look into the possibility of getting some funding from the European Commission. François Poulin (Canada) together with Brian O'Riordan would attempt to call in a fund-raising professional.

Logistics

The date for the Constituent Assembly was set initially on September 17-21, 2000 but it was changed to October 2-6, 2000 because the fishing season in U.S.A. conflicted with the dates.

The host organization was expected to look after the financial aspects for accommodations, organizations and translation.

Every organization would have to look after its own transportation fees, although an emergency fund would be created for this purpose.

Some Issues Affecting the World Fishing Community

Fisheries Agreements

The issue was raised particularly in the context of the European Union (EU) and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries (ACP).

The WFF members were mandated to play a role of watchtower and be alert on all issues concerning fisheries agreements affecting the artisanal and small-scale fisheries. The WFF would issue a statement on fisheries agreements that could be translated into the three official languages of WFF and used in all countries, particularly in those where fisheries agreements were enforced. The Statement on over-capacity and Fisheries Agreement would be sent to all national governments of Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Countries, FAO, ILO and WTO.

François Poulin (Canada) together with Brian O'Riordan and Béatrice Gorez (CCFA) would work out the statement. In response to Béatrice Gorez's request the WFF committed to respond when asked to join the CCFA campaign of letter writing in support of local fishing communities (Appendix 6).

Over-Capacity

The FAO Consultation on Management of Fishing Capacity, Shark Fisheries and Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries programmed for October 26, 1998, was imminent. The opportunity should not be missed for the WFF to have an official representation at the meeting; consequently, the members of the WFF Coordination Committee decided to request from FAO an invitation to participate. As some of the members of the Canadian Government delegation to the gathering were simultaneously WFF delegates, they could well represent the organization. With that aim the members of the committee reviewed and discussed on each of the issues included in the agenda of the FAO meeting and issued a resolution regarding over-capacity which made clear WFF position.

The WFF Coordination Committee agreed to discourage ITQs as well as to strongly oppose: 1) factory trawlers; 2) all forms of fish piracy; 3) national policies prone to favor the displacement of small-scale fishing by the operation of large vessels; and 4) the use of destructive fishing methods. In contrast action should be taken to protect artisanal fish harvesters by giving them free and exclusive access to a 12-miles zone of territorial waters, and allow ownership of resources, water bodies and fishing implements to small and artisanal fishing communities wherever intensive labor fishing existed.

The position of the WFF regarding sharks and sea-birds, in particular, and marine biodiversity, in general, was clearly defined: the WFF recognized marine biodiversity as being undermined by destructive and predatory fishing methods. This meant that the source of living aquatic resources was seriously threatened and, consequently, the livelihood of small-scale fishing communities that depended on fisheries. WFF made clear that small-scale fish harvesters were the primary stakeholders in the sustainability of living aquatic resources and that they should not be assimilated to those conducting fishing practices purely based on commercial considerations of greedy profiteering.

The calling for the third WFF Coordination Committee

The third WFF Coordination Committee meeting was to be held in San Francisco, California (U.S.A.) during October 4-9, 1999. Each member would have to look after his/her travel

expenses. The Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen Associations would cover the accommodations and meals.

San Francisco, CA, U.S.A. – Third WFF Coordination Committee Meeting

The third WFF Coordination Committee Meeting took place at the youth hostel of Point Montara Lighthouse, in Half Moon Bay, California (U.S.A.) during October 4-8, 1999. It was hosted by the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen Association, one of the most active members of the WFF. Within the WFF circles the gathering would be known as San Francisco Meeting.

The Attendance

Members of the Coordination Committee (9):

Thomas Kocherry (WFF General Coordinator, India)
François Poulin (WFF Assistant Coordinator, Canada)
Arthur Bogason (Iceland)
Harekrishna Debnath (India)
Dao Gaye (Senegal)
André Le Berre (France)
Earle McCurdy (Canada)
Humberto Mella Ahumada (Chile)
Pietro Parravano (U.S.A.)

Observers (6)

Daniel Bernier (Canada)
Christine Hunt (Canada)
Daniel Lefevre (France)
Dominique Saulx-Galiano (France)
Barbara Stickel (U.S.A.)
John Sutcliffe (Canada)

Translators (2)

Eliot Acuña-Bernier
James Smith

The Agenda

The main object of the meeting was the discussion of the first draft of the Constitution submitted by CCPFH and further definition on the preparation of the WFF constituent assembly. The rest of the issues included were:

- Sharing of experiences
- 1999 WFD celebrations preparedness
- Discussion of New Membership
- Presentation of the WFF Financial Report and other financial issues

The Opening of the Meeting

Pietro Parravano (PCFFA, U.S.A.) as host of the meeting welcomed the participants.

One by one the participants shared what had happened in their regions as well as the hardships and struggle faced by their organizations.

The 1999 WFD celebration preparations were going on, and everybody agreed that having the previous year successful experience the activities would be undertaken with renewed brio.

The New Members

Five (5) new fish harvesters/fish workers organizations from different countries had completed the WFF agreement form during the time elapsed from the Namur Meeting up to date and the members of the Coordination Committee should decide on the approval of their membership to the WFF. The list of the applicants was the following:

Gloucester Fishermen's Wife Association (U.S.A.)
Norges Kystfiskarlag (Norway)
French National Association of Artisanal Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (France)
Food and Allied Workers' Union (South Africa)
Association des Pêcheurs et Pisciculteurs de la République du Mali. (Republic of Mali)

The first three organizations of the list were accepted as members of the WFF. One of them, the French National Association of Artisanal Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers was made official as the French Branch of the WFF. The two remaining organizations from South Africa and Republic of Mali respectively, were suspended for further inquiry into the nature of their business.

The Financial Report and other Financial Issues

The report of accounts was presented.

Membership fees

The pre-established 250 US\$ annual membership fee would be maintained but there would be some flexibility for those fish harvesters/workers organizations that could not afford that amount. In the eventuality, the Coordination Committee would be authorized to accept a lesser membership fee after considering the organization's financial capacity.

Transfer of funds to WFF-India office

The transfer of 3,487 US\$ to the WFF-India office was authorized. This was intended to cover the expenses from June 16, 1998 to August 31, 1999.

Management of funds

The money would be disbursed according to project proposals at the joint request of the General Coordinator and the Assistant Coordinator.

The WFF Draft Constitution

Most of the time of the meeting was engaged in deliberating on the first draft of the WFF Constitution submitted by the Canadian Council.

The members of the committee discussed exhaustively each and every of the forty-five (45) articles included in the document submitted by the Assistant Coordinator. In the end, the committee reached consensus on the draft of the preamble and the majority of the articles but a number of them would have to be finalized at the next meeting of the coordination committee or at the constituent assembly.

The discussion of the following items were postponed to the next Coordination Committee Meeting:

- The composition, reservation and procedures of the coordination committee The designation of regional representatives;
- The gender parity in the organization;
- The functions of the general coordinator, the assistant coordinator and the treasurer as well as their terms of office;
- Everything concerning the executive committee (the composition, the officers, the functions, the term of office of the members, the meetings, the quorum for the meetings and the procedures); and
- The establishment of the regional councils and their goals.

New steps towards the WFF Constituent Assembly

The coordinators presented several proposals to the members of the committee who agreed to pass the following as decisions:

Each country with at least one active member shall be entitled to representation at the General Assembly by two delegates, one of who shall be male and the other female.

Dominique Saulx-Galliano on behalf of the French women introduced the following declaration relevant to the gender equity addressed to the members of the Coordination Committee:

To: WFF Coordination Committee

De: Dominique Saulx-Galliano (France)

In 1997 and 1998, women in France worked for recognition and succeeded in being accorded the status of fisherwoman in the fisheries law. As a result, we now have access and the right to an employee pension. Much work remains to be done for increased recognition at the level of training and validation of professional skills as well as employment insurance.

Our primary concern now, in view of the third objective adopted in New Delhi, is that women be completely integrated into the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF). They are demanding that every country have a woman in its delegation as soon as an association or organization of women associated with the fishing industry is formed and requests membership in the WFF.

They are also demanding that parity be respected in written materials and in fact, as it naturally is in the fish harvesting family (a family: a woman and her husband!)

Declaration
October 5, 1999

Finance

The travelling expenses of the delegates from the southern developing countries would be met by WFF.

The Canadian Council would try to get more funds from Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer (France).

Participants

Every country would be entitled to two (2) delegates to the Constituent Assembly. Based on their large number of fish harvesters, the following countries would be entitled to three (3) delegates:

- Canada
- Chile
- India
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- U.S.A.

A selection of international NGOs such as FAO, ILO, UNESCO, UNO WHO, ICSF would be invited under the condition that they look after their expenses.

The members of the committee were encouraged to develop a maximum promotion of WFF membership applications to be presented for approval at the next coordination committee meeting.

The Calling for the Fourth WFF Coordination Committee Meeting

The members of the committee decided to have their next meeting in Loctudy, France, during April 24-26, 2000.

The San Francisco Meeting concluded with songs from Chile and Bengal (India) sang by Humberto Mella, François Poulin and Harekrishna Debnath. Thomas Kocherry, the WFF general coordinator, thanked everybody, particularly the president of the host organization; Pietro Parravano (PCFFA), for making the meeting a historic event. Everything in the organization of the meeting was carefully looked after to facilitate the sharing of a wonderful experience that included meeting the press, visiting the Monterey Bay Aquarium, participating in a sea fishing exploit and enjoying a reception and barbecue gathering with people working with the PCFFA.

Loctudy, France – Fourth WFF Coordination Committee Meeting

As expected, the fourth WFF Coordination Committee meeting was held in Loctudy, France, during April 24-26, 2000. As its predecessors, it would further be known simply as Loctudy Meeting.

The Attendance

Members of the WFF Coordination Committee present (8);

Thomas Kocherry (WFF General Coordinator, India)
François Poulin (WFF Assistant Coordinator, Canada)
André Le Berre (France)
Daniel Bernier (Alternate to Earle McCurdy, Canada)
Arthur Bogason (Iceland)
Harekrishna Debnath (India)
Dao Gaye (Senegal)*
Humberto Mella Ahumada (Chile)
Pietro Parravano (U.S.A.)

*Absent for the first two days

Observers (9):

Jacques Brunet
René-Pierre Chever
Réginald Comeau
Béatrice Gorez (Belgium)
Alain Le Sann
Danièle Le Sauce
Daniel Lefevre
Joan Parravano
Dominique Saulx-Galliano

Translators/Interpreters (3):

Sebastian Posada
Ana Toupin
James Smith

Members of the Organizing Committee Secretariat (2):

Cédric Pincent
Pierre Verreault

Thomas Kocherry, the general coordinator, welcomed the members and those who collaborated to the realization of the meeting. Humberto Mella addressed his welcoming greetings to the audience and talked about the importance of WFF. He stressed WFF role in protecting the environment and the small-scale fishing as well as an international body in defense of fish harvesters' rights and the high commitment that the achievement of these goals represented for the WFF Coordination Committee.

The members of the committee accepted Earle McCurdy's proposal of Daniel Bernier as his alternate since he, a member of the committee representing CANADIAN COUNCIL (Canada), could not be present.

The opening of the meeting was animated by Danièle Le Sauce who sang "Loguivy de la mer", a traditional French marine song.

The Agenda

The agenda included, as usual, the sharing of regional experiences, the adoption of the previous Coordination Committee meeting report, i.e. San Francisco meeting, the presentation of the WFF Report and other financial issues as well as the introduction of new membership applications for approval. The preparation of the WFF Constituent Assembly had to be pinpointed and all the issues concerning the logistics, the agenda, the drafting of the discussion paper on fisheries policy, the special report on WFF activity from its first meeting in Delhi, the WFF Constitution were the object of exhaustive discussion. Two very important new issues were in the program: 1) the meeting with the French Senator François Marc; and 2) the discussion of the polluting catastrophe known as the Erika Case.

The Sharing of Regional Experiences

U.S.A. – Pietro Parravano (PCFFA) exposed the revival of the small-scale fish harvesters' cause among the population in his country, the pressure created by the expansion of aquaculture, the existing awareness on sustainable fishing, and the efforts toward developing a nation-wide fish harvesters' organization. He alluded to the World Trade Organization (WTO) meeting in Seattle and stressed the need to have a small-scale fishery representative in that organization.

Iceland – Arthur Bogason (NASBO) referred to the creation of the North Atlantic Fish Harvesters Association, the ITQ system and the Supreme Court case where it was taken to task and was lost. He mentioned the need for political actions and expected to have a productive meeting.

Chile – Humberto Mella (CONAPACH) emphasized the small-scale fish harvesters' struggle against the industrial fleet and how the Government favored the latter. He exposed the work they were doing against the ITQ system that was put into place in 1991 as well as toward the strengthening of the coastal fishery with small-scale fish harvesters that yielded quality landings.

France – André le Berre (WFF French branch) mentioned the increasing consciousness of fish workers and the public about the state of fisheries. He declared that Brussels and other national and supranational organizations ignored fishery issues and thus the way of life of fish harvesters and their families. In his opinion, it was very important to understand and respect the national differences relevant to the definition of small-scale fishing. He concluded bringing to the attention of the meeting the Erika case. Daniel Lefevre, in turn, reviewed the WFD celebration in Cherbourg.

Canada – Daniel Bernier (Canadian Council) touched upon the common problems that marked the specific situation of fisheries in the different countries. He shared his experience as a participant to the FishRights99 conference, held in Australia in November 1999, by saying that, although the meeting focussed on property rights and concentration of capital, the audience perceived WFF approach in John Kurien's (IDS, India) and Sebastian Mathews's (ICSF) presentations, which demonstrated the alternate small-scale fish harvesters policies.

India – Harekrishna Debnath (NFF) referred to the adverse impact on Indian fisheries caused by the devastation of 300 km of coast by a cyclone in October 1999 as well as by the not less devastating effect of destructive development related to tourism, agriculture and aquaculture. He stressed the organization of manifestations as well as the celebration of WFD across the country.

He disclosed the details concerning the death of Col. (Retd) Patrap Save, who was his colleague and friend, during one of the protests against the Government project of setting up an international port in Umbergaon. Col. Save was the chairman of the Umbergaon Committee of Port Langarsh Samiti that organized the protests and he was arrested together with one hundred (100) other protestors following one of the manifestations in the night of April 7, 2000. He was then beat to comma and died several days after, on April 20, 2000. The incident brought about an explosive situation and new manifestations were being organized all across India.

The participants to Loctudy Meeting decided to support this protest by drafting a letter to be signed by all the members of the WFF Coordination Committee and sent to the Prime Minister of India as well as to the Chief Minister of Gujarat. The project, presented by Pietro Parravano, was approved before the closure of the meeting (Appendix 7).

Canada – François Poulin (Canadian Council) focussed the attention on the situation opposing coastal small fish harvesters to the corporate views of the industry. He also referred to the Federal Government fishing policy review in the Canadian Atlantic Coast.

India – Thomas Kocherry (NFF) emphasized the struggle of the small-scale fish harvesters and the coastal communities against the corporate fisheries, the organization of manifestations and the environmental problem related with the industrial exploitation of the resource.

The WFF Political Action

There was consensus that WFF should undertake political action and Thomas Kocherry suggested that this should be done before the constituent assembly. In the opinion of François

Poulin the Erika case could facilitate this action. André Le Berre supported the idea especially since France would have the European presidency from July 2000. Pietro Parravano suggested the convenience of discussing the issue during the programmed meeting with Senator François Marc and the members of the committee unanimously accepted the proposal.

The Adoption of San Francisco Meeting Report

Daniel Bernier (Canadian Council) introduced the report, whose drafting was approved after a few modifications. The only thing to be worked out more in detail was the financial information.

The discussion of the San Francisco Meeting Report brought about some decisions of the committee:

New Members

Two new African members would be added to the list of WFF members:

1. Food Allied Workers Union of South Africa (Republic of South Africa) representing approximately 20,000 members-women from food processing plants and 1,000 workers from industrial fleet. According to Daniel Bernier, Mandla Gxanyana, the general secretary for this union, had been working towards small-scale fishing development in South Africa; and
2. *Association des pêcheurs et pisciculteurs de la République du Mali* (Republic of Mali) whose membership consisted in 10,000 small-scale fish harvesters/workers of the artisanal sector.

In the case of new organizations applying for membership to participate in the WFF Constituent Assembly the approval had to be decided by the regional coordinator, the assistant coordinator and the general coordinator of the WFF.

The number of observers from the member organizations would be limited and their names had to be submitted to the coordinators.

The Organizing Committee of the Constituent Assembly of the WFF represented by Alain Le Sann and René-Pierre Chever presented some logistic issues concerning the meeting.

Invitations to the WFF Constituent Assembly

All the WFF member organizations should be invited to the WFF Constituent Assembly whether or not they had paid their membership fee. The decision was adopted in the light of Arthur Bogason's suggestion concerning the flexibility of the WFF policy on membership fee collection based on the recent emergence of the organization. When requested to pay their fees some organizations responded by paying but others did not.

The members of the committee put forward the convenience of inviting some personalities representing specific organizations and/or countries. Several names were proposed:

Proponent	Proposal
Pietro Parravano (U.S.A.)	Victor Menotti, Global Economic Forum, as observer
	Adriana Nasoulas, who worked with fish workers in U.S.A.
François Poulin (Canada)	Jacques Diouf, FAO Director General, honorary chairman
Daniel Bernier (Canada)	Observers from the National Seafood Sector Council that represent the unionized fish workers in Canada

Daniel Bernier wanted to have a definition on the convenience of inviting José Bové of *Confédération Paysanne* (France) and Alain Le Sann was invited to expose the situation. The definition and the decision on the issue was left to the WFF French Branch, which should inform the WFF Coordination Committee to have the invitation sent if that would be the case.

The proposals were accepted and the proponents should look after the invitations.

The Erika Case

René-Pierre Chever presented a brief review of the polluting catastrophe known as the Erika Case and explained the adverse repercussions on the fish harvesting in the area. The oil spill had directly affected a part of the French coast where fish harvesters usually operated and even at sea, where the level of pollution was low, the catches were seriously damaged, especially the Dublin Bay prawn fisheries. The future was uncertain since 15,000 tons of refinery residues still remained in the wreck and although the corporations TOTAL-FINA were committed to have it pumped out by September 2000, the fish harvesters would only be satisfied when they would see that done.

The issue was the object of exhaustive discussion by the members of the WFF Coordination Committee.

André Le Berre views was that the situation was like a sword hanging over one's head, since the future of the local fishery was compromised and remained uncertain. It was particularly unacceptable since the catastrophe happened while carrying waste from a northern country to a southern one. He stressed the need of WFF intervention.

François Poulin supported Le Berre's position based on the fact that it was a global problem and thus the action should be taken at the international level.

Humberto Mella reaffirmed the standpoint by declaring that such a catastrophe directly concerned the WFF since it affected all its members wherever they were located and thus represented a worldwide thread. He proposed to make the Erika Case a symbol in the WFF strategic action plan and concluded that the WFF should inform the French Government as well as the French population what its position was.

André Le Berre suggested to have the International Maritime Organization (IMO) invited to the WFF Constituent Assembly as a means of making them understand that fish harvesters were directly concerned with maritime transportation and consequently they had to be listened.

Thomas Kocherry commented that these disasters had become a daily issue around the world and was absolutely convinced that WFF had to act to stop the unacceptable practice of carrying waste from the North to the South. Arthur Bogason reaffirmed the rejection of such a harmful practice.

André Le Berre considered the reinforcement of the maritime rules because they were not strict enough. He quoted the Exxon Valdez's example and the new US regulations. Daniel Bernier mentioned that if the new US maritime rules protected the US coast they should also apply elsewhere in the world and supported the idea.

Thomas Kocherry, the WFF general coordinator, concluded that three points should be taken into consideration when establishing the strategy of the WFF action:

1. The WFF French Branch should apply pressure on the French Government
2. Stricter maritime transport rules should apply
3. The principle of the polluter-payer should apply

The Organizing Committee was mandated to draft a proposal of resolution on the Erika Case to be submitted for approval before the closure of the meeting (Appendix 8).

The "Delhi to Loctudy Report"

Thomas Kocherry prepared the "Delhi to Loctudy Report" on the request of the WFF Coordination Committee. The document approach was refined and François Poulin made a concluding proposal that four parts should be presented to the Constituent Assembly: 1) a historical document; 2) a financial report; 3) a draft constitution; and 4) a policy document. The proposal was unanimously accepted.

Daniel Bernier (CANADIAN COUNCIL) was committed to produce the historical document while the financial report had to be logically produced short before the meeting by the WFF treasurer.

The Draft Constitution

No major changes were introduced to the available version of the Draft Constitution worked out in San Francisco Meeting.

Harekrishna Debnath proposed a change in the proposed change: under the Title Membership, Article 3: Active Members, after point d) he suggested to include the number B of the WFF interim charter, that read:

"Large corporations and allied affiliates owning fishing vessels or engaged in harvesting, processing and distribution of fish, and those carrying out destructive industrial aquaculture, cannot be members of the Forum"

The committee decided to consider Harekrishna Debnath's proposal as an alternate proposal for discussion in the group while part of the draft constitution is agreed.

It was also approved that the agreed articles would be written in normal text while the articles to be discussed at the WFF Constituent Assembly would appear in upper case format so that the difference is clear.

The draft constitution with agreed and disagreed articles was ready to be submitted to the assembly.

The WFF Fisheries Policy Document

Daniel Bernier (Canadian Council) explained his discussion with the funder on the development of the policy document and how the funding from *Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer pour le progrès de l'homme* (France) was twofold:

- 1) a part to synthesize the WFF politics platform; and
- 2) another part to build case studies of different countries' situations, as for instance: the ITQ in Iceland and New Zealand; the owner-operators approach in Canada; the coastal zone in

Chile; the modifications of the coastal zone regulations in India, etc. Consequently the creation of the WFF policy document would have an allocation of approximately FF 125,000.

The WFF Coordination Committee decided to create a Policy Committee and the proposal about its composition included:

John Kurien (Institute for International Development Studies, India)
Danièle Le Sauce
Charles Menzies (University of British Columbia, Canada)
Michael Orbach (Duke University, NC, U.S.A.)
Gisly Palsson (University of Iceland)
Aliou Sall (CREDETIP/CNPS Senegal)

These resource persons would have to be contacted by Daniel Bernier, who was nominated as the facilitator responsible of producing the policy document based on the WFF objectives, which had to be circulated to the members of the WFF Coordination Committee before the constituent assembly.

The Meeting with Senator François Marc

André Le Berre welcomed and thanked his compatriot Senator François Marc for his support to the organization. After a short presentation of the WFF by Thomas Kocherry, which included the history, the mission and objectives, the composition and membership and the role of women in the WFF, Senator Marc declared that in his opinion the WFF responded to a need. He appreciated to host the WFF Constituent Assembly in the Department of Finistere (Brittany, France) and was proud to support the organization because he believed in its objectives and was sure that it would facilitate the collaboration between fish harvesters and politicians. He committed to remind the Minister of Fisheries, M. Glavany, the convenience of his presence at the WFF Constituent Assembly and promised to try to convince the French Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, and the French President, Jacques Chirac, to participate as well. He expressed his best wishes of success to the WFF.

François Poulin, the WFF assistant coordinator, thanked Senator Marc for his visit and support and announced that the Department of Finistere could count on WFF support in its action in the Erika Case.

The Financial Report

The period 1997-1998

The Audited Financial Report for the period 1997-1998 presented by Daniel Bernier, the executive director of Canadian Council, was a balanced report, i.e. the expenses that amounted to 140,503 CDN\$ were equal to the revenues. The Indian members of the Coordination Committee questioned the report in many aspects, which were the object of exhaustive discussion.

Daniel Bernier explained that the difference between the audited report and the previous one submitted to Namur Meeting responded to the existence of some expenses that were not accounted for before and that exceeding expenses had to be covered by the Canadian Council. François Poulin, in turn, explained what happened with the donation of 25,000 CDN\$ from the Quebec Government (Canada) and submitted a financial statement.

Arthur Bogason proposed to take the minutes of the issue and to close the discussion because the issue was duly clarified.

Kocherry consented in closing the discussion and introduced the need to have some of the India Secretariat's expenses reimbursed.

The period 1998-1999

(To be finalized by the French Organizing Committee)

The WFF Constituent Assembly Preparedness

The quest for more definition brought about several decisions of the WFF Coordination Committee on the following:

The Agenda

An updated version of the agenda was presented.

Logistics

The forming of the working groups

The Plenary would split into four (4) working groups, most of them with simultaneous translation facilities:

- 1) French/English group
- 2) English/Spanish group
- 3) Spanish/French group
- 4) English group including people from different continents

In each workshop two members of the Coordination Committee will facilitate the discussion on the Constitution and the Policy Statement.

Several other decisions related with the logistics of the meeting were related to the environmental conscious profile of the meeting. This would be accomplished by avoiding the use of plastic or multinational products; the identification of delegations by means of the banner and the flag of their respective organizations, etc.

Budget and other financial issues

François Poulin presented the decisions concerning the Constituent Assembly budget and other financial issues related to the organization of the meeting that were adopted at a previous meeting *ad hoc* held with the attendance of the coordinators, Thomas Kocherry and François Poulin, the treasurer, André Le Berre, and Yves Piton.

He announced that there would be two budgets: the French budget and the WFF budget.

The French budget used to set up the constituent assembly would be managed by the Organizing Committee according to the WFF Coordination Committee decisions. The Organizing Committee would present its financial report to the Constituent Assembly and to the Coordination Committee next October. The sources of revenues for this budget would be

mainly French and include the departments, the national and local governments, the local committees and several other French associations. The budget included specific categories of expenses like:

- Lodging and Boarding (150 persons)
- Translation and Interpretation
- Documentation and Information
- Local transportation
- Other (related with the logistics)

The WFF budget would be managed by the WFF treasurer in France and would require the coordinators' authorization for the engagement of any expenses related to it. A financial report of this budget had to be submitted to the Constituent Assembly in October. The revenues would be represented by the grants accorded by the funders: *Développement et Paix*, *Collectif Pêche et développement*, *Entraide et fraternité*, *Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer pour le progrès de l'homme*, and other national and international sources. The expenses would be to cover the air transportation tickets, the transit cost (100 US\$), visa, etc. and the health insurance of the southern delegations. The Southern delegates would be those coming from Asia (except Japan), South America, Africa and the Pacific. They would be asked to pay for their costs and ask for reimbursement once in Loctudy. This would have a few exceptions according to objective impediments, which would benefit of bank transfers to pay the tickets, pre-paid tickets, etc.

Daniel Bernier proposed to make an assessment of the needs for more funds for the assembly in order to estimate the missing funds and do an additional fundraising action. He was designated to produce the document. The CCDF representatives who were present at the meeting were thanked for their support.

Potential Participants

In addition to the present WFF members, other thirteen (13) countries were expected to attend the meeting: Benin and Madagascar; Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Peru; Denmark, Italy and Spain; China and Japan.

The delegates would have to be nominated at least ninety (90) days before the meeting, which meant that the closing date for the inscriptions of new members and delegate nominations would be June 30, 2000. All applications for new WFF membership would have to be sent to the Indian Secretariat and to the Assistant Coordinator who will send them to the Organizing Committee.

The estimated number of potential delegates allowed the extension of the payment of the lodging and boarding to one observer per present WFF member.

Women's Participation

Danièle Le Sauce recalled the third objective of the draft Constitution that stipulated the gender parity in delegations. Her views were that the WFF Coordination Committee did not appear to be consistent with that parity and she stressed her standpoint that the WFF should be a leader on this issue. She declared that the organization of Women from the South and the North was ready to collaborate to establish the parity in women's representation. She noted that it was discussed at San Francisco Meeting but it was not reflected in the meeting's report.

The Coordination Committee decided to amend the mentioned report in that sense and also that the Article 13 (a) of the Draft Constitution should be reported as an agreed decision.

Each country with at least one active member shall be entitled to representation at the General Assembly by two delegates, one of who shall be male and the other female.

Observers and Auditors

The committee decided to allow one (1) speaking observer without vote per member organization. At the same time each member organization would be entitled to have an unlimited number of auditors representing fish harvesters organizations with no right to speak nor to vote, provided that they cover their lodging and boarding costs as well as their travel expenses, etc.

Those organizations that were not in line with the WFF objectives should not be invited. As representative of this group were mentioned Greenpeace, The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), The World Bank, The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and multinational companies.

Communications

Thomas Kocherry would have the first invitations sent immediately after his return to India. As soon as the response information would reach the India Secretariat it would be sent to CANADIAN COUNCIL who in turn would send it to the WFF Coordination Committee and to the Organizing Committee.

The Voice of the African Regional Coordinator

Dao Gaye (CNPS, Senegal), the regional African coordinator introduced the membership application of *Union Nationale des Pêcheurs Artisans de Guinée* (Republic of Guinea) that was unanimously accepted.

The African Regional Coordinator presented a resolution issued by *Collectif National des Pêcheurs Artisanal du Sénégal* (CNPS) aiming to keep a sole representation by country and the need to carefully examine the new applicants in collaboration with the regional coordinator (Appendix 9)

WFF International Presence

Since his first meeting in Delhi, the WFF has developed many actions at the international level to help built unity and solidarity among the fish harvesters/workers organizations and to influence the fisheries policy and stop the export of fisheries crisis. The WFF supported the struggle of Pakistani fisher people against joint ventures; the struggle against ITQ led by CONAPACH (Chile), the Artisanal Fishers Association of South Africa's struggle against ITQ and the industrial fleets for survival, Canadian Council's (Canada) struggle against the Government's decision on fleet reduction targeting coastal fishermen. The WFF also supported the different struggles of fisher people whenever it was asked. The release of innocent fisher people from jail in different countries was a concerted effort.

Thomas Kocherry, the WFF general coordinator, participated in discussions and attended programs in U.S.A., Norway, Belgium, Geneva, UK and South Africa during his visit to those

countries. He also attended the FAO Fisheries Committee Meeting held in Rome, in February 1999. François Poulin, the WFF assistant coordinator, Arthur Bogason and Daniel Bernier attended the FishRights99 conference on property rights held in Fremantle (Western Australia) in November 1999. Earle McCurdy attended the ILO workshops at the Geneva 2000 Forum (Switzerland) in June 2000. Arthur Bogason also organized different meetings with fish harvesters/workers organizations in several European countries. Pietro Parravano propitiated that Bill Clinton, president of the U.S.A., issues a statement in support of the World Fisheries Day. The Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Association, one of WFF members in U.S.A., successfully intervened to stop the dredging for oil exploration in George's Bank.

(More examples needed)

The WFF supported many struggles and tried to create an international solidarity around them. The matter has been object of discussion in WFF Coordination Committee meetings. The WFF support adopted different forms according to circumstances: international protest networking; rallies; manifestations; protest letters to local authorities and/or to national government officials, prime ministers, presidents; press releases; statements; etc. The WFF Coordination Committee adopted during its meeting in San Francisco a statement in support to the struggle of the fishing community of Lake Chilika, in Orissa (India) and a declaration in support of the West Coast collapse of salmon fishery in Canada (Appendix 10).

The WFF Constituent Assembly is making possible the adhesion of more and more fish harvesters/ workers organizations from remote countries to WFF cause, which is theirs. This, obviously, will invigorate the organization and allow its members to gain ground in the battle for survival.

Canada
September 2000

APPENDIX 1 – Participants at WFF Delhi Meeting

World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers Delhi, India, 17-21 November 1997

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APPENDIX 2– WFF Interim Charter

World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers Delhi, India, 17-21 November 1997

FINAL ARRANGEMENT OF THE INTERIM CHARTER FOR THE OPERATION OF THE WORLD FORUM OF FISH HARVESTERS AND FISHWORKERS

Preamble

The fishing communities of the world are uniting in the World Forum of Fish-harvesters and Fishworkers to uphold their human rights, social justice and culture; affirming the sea as source of all life; and committing themselves to sustain fisheries and aquatic resources for future generations, protect their livelihood and secure preferential access for small and medium-scale, artisanal, and traditional fishers, and indigenous people, to coastal resources on which they have historically depended.

I. Objectives

The World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers will work to:

1. Protect, defend and strengthen the communities that depend on the fishery for their livelihoods;
2. Assist member organizations to secure and improve the economic viability and quality of life of fish harvesters, fishworkers and their communities;
3. Recognize, protect and enhance the role of women in the fishing economy and in the sustenance of the community;
4. Create an understanding of the resource as a common heritage of humanity and ensure, through sustainable fishing practices, conservation and regeneration of the marine and inland resources and ecosystems, that it is passed on to future generations;
5. Protect fishing communities, fish resources and fish habitats, such as mangroves, from both land based and sea based threats. For example, displacement by tourism, pollution, including the use of the sea as a dumping ground for toxic waste, destructive industrial aquaculture, overfishing and destructive fishing practices;
6. Establish and promote the rights of fishing communities to their customary territories under their national jurisdiction in the coastal zone for fishing and habitation;
7. Promote a legal regime that will ensure the traditional and customary rights of fishing communities to the fishery under their national jurisdiction;
8. Promote the primary role of fish harvester and fishworker organizations in managing fisheries and oceans, nationally and internationally;

9. Promote food security both locally and worldwide through sustaining fish stocks for the future, and by reserving fish for human food;
10. Promote equitable representation of fish harvesters and fishworkers organizations in all appropriate international and regional fora and advocate for their recognition;
11. Play a monitoring role to ensure compliance by states and transnational corporations with relevant international agreements; oppose any trade agreements that threaten the livelihoods of fishers;
12. Prevent the export of crises of resource collapse and of technologies and practices that lead to these crises;
13. Provide support for national and international struggles that are consistent with the objectives of the World Forum;
14. Encourage, assist and support fish harvesters and fishworkers to organize where they are not organized;
15. Promote the right to social security, safe working conditions, fair income and safety at sea, for fish harvesters and fishworkers, including recognition for them as seafarers;
16. Improve the communication between fish harvesters and the scientific community through exchange of knowledge and science;
17. Acknowledge and enhance the unique culture of fishing communities.

II. Membership

1. Constituencies

- A. Organizations of the following constituencies who adhere to the objectives of the World Forum can be members:
 - i. Fish-harvesters: anyone directly engaged in fishing, known in different countries as:
 - Subsistence fishers
 - Artisanal fishers
 - Aboriginal or indigenous peoples who are sea-harvesters
 - Traditional coastal fishers
 - Independent small and medium boat owner-operators who hire their own crew
 - Crew members in this sector
 - ii. Crew members in fishing units other than those above, who are presently members of organizations under (i);
 - iii. Mass-based organizations of women of fishing communities who are engaged in work in support of the fishery;
 - iv. Fishworkers who are engaged in activities related to processing, sale (excluding merchants) and transportation of fish.

- B. Large corporations and allied affiliates owning fishing vessels or engaged in harvesting, processing and distributing fish, and those carrying out destructive industrial aquaculture, cannot be members of the Forum.

2. Types of Organizations

- A. Members of the World Forum are organizations such as :

- i. Trade unions, associations and federations of cooperatives that are democratically constituted.
- ii. Aboriginal nations dependent upon the fishery for their livelihood.

- B. There should preferably be only one organization per country.

- C. In cases where there are more than one national organization, organizations seeking membership should represent a significant proportion of the constituencies listed above.

- D. Exceptions to the above can be made at the discretion of the Interim Coordination Committee, in keeping with objectives of the Forum.

III. Structure

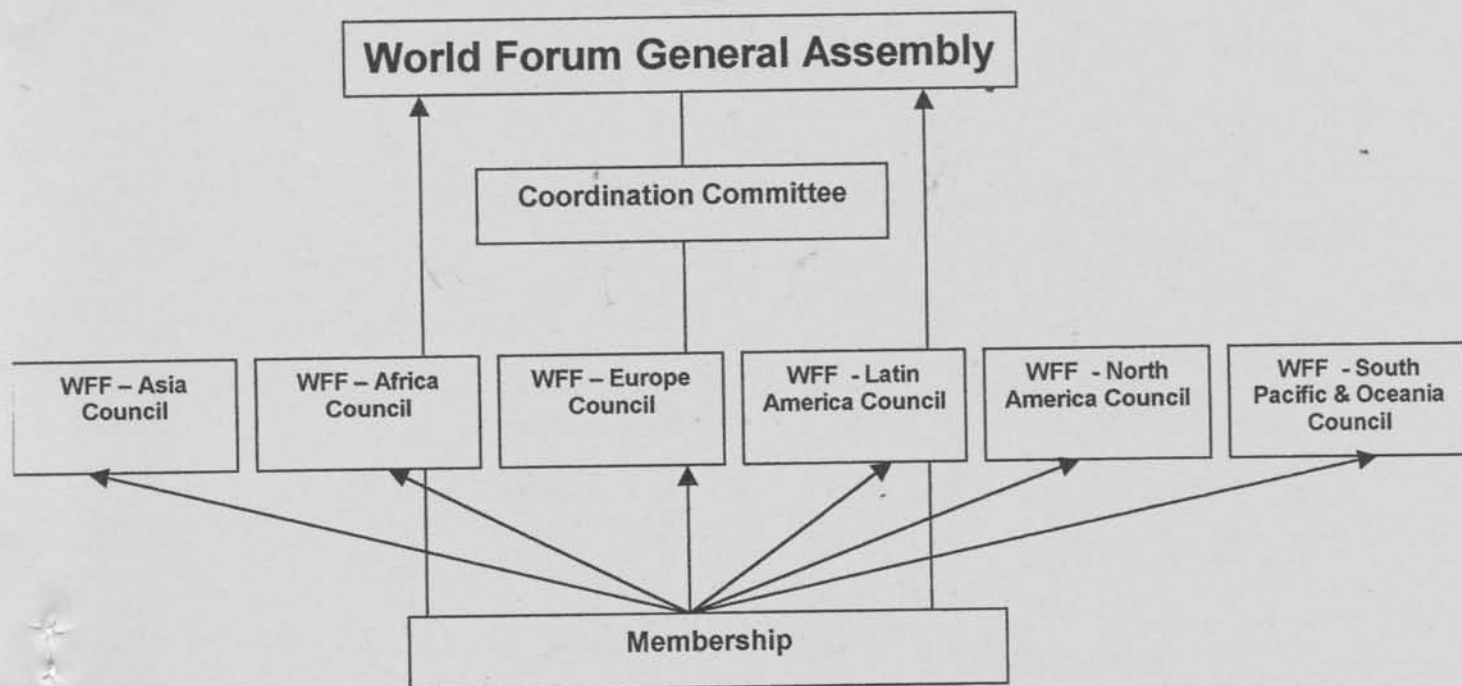
Interim Structure

1. Organizations present at this meeting as delegates and observers who meet the above criteria, and who wish to become members, will be considered interim members.
2. The Steering Committee of this Forum will serve as the Interim Coordination Committee.
3. The Interim Coordination Committee will:
 - i. carry out all the regular duties or tasks of a coordinating committee of any international organization;
 - ii. facilitate formation of regional councils;
 - iii. accept new interim members based on the above criteria;
 - iv. draft a constitution, including guidelines for certification of voting and non-voting membership;
 - v. hold a constituent assembly within three years.
4. The Interim Committee shall have a coordinator elected by this General Assembly.

Proposed Future Structure of the World Forum

1. All member organizations will constitute the General Assembly of the World Forum.
2. A coordination committee will be formed through regional representation. This Committee shall be larger than the present Interim Coordination Committee.
3. Regions/Continents
 - a. There shall be more than one representative from each region or continent.

- b. This representation shall respect the balance of gender
- c. If members of a region so wish, they may create a regional World Forum council for coordination and consultation at the regional level. Membership, however, shall be directly in the World Forum and not in the regional council.



IV. Funding

1. The World Forum shall be self-financing
2. Member organizations shall pay membership dues. Those member organizations desirous of making special additional contributions may do so.
3. The Forum shall accept only those contributions that are consistent with its objectives.

Additional Decisions and Resolutions

Election of General Coordinator

Thomas Kocherry was unanimously elected as the General Coordinator of the WFF Interim Coordination Committee.

World Fisheries Day

It was decided to celebrate World Fisheries Day to achieve the objectives of the interim arrangement charter and to oppose destructive fishing gears. Every year on the foundation day of WFF, that is 21st November, we will celebrate World Fisheries Day. The first "World Fisheries Day" would be on 21st November 1998.

Membership of Interim Coordination Committee

The following are members of the Interim Coordination Committee:

Latin America: Silvia Gonzalez Sanchez, Mexico

Africa: Dao Gaye, Senegal

North America: Pietro Parravano, USA

Asia: Charles Capricho, Philippines

Europe: Arthur Bogason, Iceland.

François Poulin, Canada

Earle McCurdy, Canada

Thomas Kocherry, India

Harekrishna Debnath, India

Resolutions

Resolutions were adopted on the following subjects:

- Human Rights of Fishworkers in South Asia -- concerning the seizure of boats and the jailing, and even killing, of small-scale fish harvesters from Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh by neighboring states for violation of maritime boundaries.
- A Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries Agreements, regarding the establishment of an international code of conduct to ensure that the livelihood and rights of artisanal fish harvesters and their communities are protected in international fisheries agreements.
- The Fisheries Agreement between the European Union and Senegal, regarding threats posed by the current Agreement to the food security of Senegalese fishing communities, and the failure of related funding provisions to address the interests of the artisanal Resolution of the Armed Conflict in Sri Lanka, calling on both sides to immediately stop the armed conflict and negotiate a definitive end to the war.

Press Conference

At 3:30 p.m. there was a press conference addressed by the newly elected General Coordinator and the members of the Coordination Committee.

Coordination Committee meeting

At 4:15 p.m. the Coordination Committee met and took the following decisions:

Decision A

It was decided that Humberto Mella (Chile) be invited as a member to the Coordination Committee of the WFF.

Decision B

It was decided that François Poulin be the Assistant Coordinator of the WFF.

Decision C

It was decided that the Canadian Council of Professional Fish Harvesters' office be used as the office of communication of the WFF for the time being, until the General Coordinator's office is set up.

Decision D

It was decided that the Coordination Committee be called as early as possible to plan and implement the World Fisheries Day and the Interim Arrangement Charter of the WFF.

Decision E

It was decided that each member of the Coordination Committee must try to contact the other organizations in other countries that were not present in Delhi.

APPENDIX 3 – Resolutions of the WFF Delhi Meeting

World Forum of Fish Harvester and Fish Workers Delhi, India, 17-21 November 1997

Resolution 1

HUMAN RIGHTS OF FISHWORKERS IN SOUTH ASIA

We, the undersigned, representatives of fishworkers organizations from the South Asian Countries call the attention of the World leaders of fishworkers and the World Forum of Professional Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers, on the recurring instances of violations of our human rights by the States in the region.

Each day, the lives of fishworkers from Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh fishing in the waters of Bay of Bengal, Indian Ocean, Palk Strait, Gulf of Mannar and the Arabian Sea are threatened and made insecure. The tropical waters of South Asia, rich in marine resources, are also the grounds where our people are being hunted by the States, who are in perpetual love and hate relationship. We see our waters as common property of all our people, but our governments keep sacrosanct maritime borders, which we are not aware of. Hundreds of fishworkers fishing for their livelihood have been arrested, their boats apprehended for violation of maritime boundaries. About 500 fishworkers are still rotting in the jails of Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India, many are killed in the seas by our own law enforcing agencies.

It is ironical that the fishworkers in their traditional and small mechanized boats are caught, penalized and killed, whereas the industrial fishing vessels and big foreign trawlers are poaching at will constantly depleting the marine resources of South Asian waters.

South Asian Labour Forum (SALF), an alliance of trade unions from Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal, have taken up the issue of these fishworkers very strongly primarily, at the instance of and with the participation of the fishworkers unions from Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

The trade unions, both in Pakistan and India moved jointly on this issue. Both the governments were pressurized to release the detained fishworkers and formulate a long-term policy so that the fishworkers are not arrested in the future and their source of livelihood jeopardized. The Indian Chapter of the SALF organized a fact-finding team, which met the arrested Pakistani fishworkers in Indian jails and compiled a comprehensive report, which has since been released. The Pakistani trade union leaders and members of support organizations also met the jailed Indian fishworkers.

Primarily, due to the joint efforts of the Pakistani and Indian labour organizations, 194 Pakistani fishworkers and 194 Indian fishworkers were released this year on July 15. But, many more are still languishing in jails.

A similar effort has been initiated for the protection of the rights of Sri Lankan fishworkers languishing in Indian jails and vice versa. We, as representatives of fishworkers unions from South Asia and as members of the South Asian Labour Forum, urge this World Forum of Professional Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers to give cognizance to the plight of the South Asian Fishworkers and take up this issue with the concerned governments and international agencies immediately.

We, demand that:

- All fishworkers detained in the jails of Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India be released immediately.
- For unintended violations, the States should adopt policies, which protect the livelihood rights of the fishworkers in the region.
- The respective governments should compensate those non-citizen fishworkers illegally kept under detention, and provide material and emotional support to the families of fishworkers captured by another country.
- Boats and other crafts in which no incriminating evidences have been found should be immediately returned, along with the gear, to the respective owners.
- Maritime Zones Act of respective countries should be amended in consonance with the UN Convention of the Law of the Seas.
- Marine water bodies of South Asia should be considered as common property resources of fishworkers from all the South Asian countries.
- A South Asian Regional Fisheries Authority should be set up at SAARC level, and formulate a South Asian Fisheries Policy, which not only offers sustainable management of fish resources in the region but also addresses the human rights of fishworkers.
- Ensure representation of Fishworkers organizations and trade unions in all regional bodies set up with the above objectives.

Resolution 2

THE FISHERIES AGREEMENT BETWEEN EUROPEAN UNION AND SENEGAL

With reference to the proposal to the WFF Meeting for a Resolution on a Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries Agreements, and in particular with regard to the fisheries agreement recently signed between Senegal and the EU:

Organizations representing workers in the artisanal sectors from France (the Local Fisheries Committees from Cherbourg, Lower Normandy and Le Guilvinec) and Senegal (CNPS), as well as their support organizations (Pêche et Développement and CFFA) demand that the component of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) Budget which is allocated to fisheries agreements (some 30% of the total in 1996) is reviewed in a way which resolves the following issues:

the component of the CFP budget allocated to fisheries agreements, such as the one signed between the government of Senegal and the European Union should provide benefit for the workers either in the French or Senegalese artisanal fisheries sectors, rather than be used to buy access for the long distance fishing fleets of the EU mainly to the waters of the signatory countries of the Lome Convention (the ACP States) such as Senegal;

Other parts of the CFP budget, such as the budget for Markets and Fleet Restructuring, should not be used to provide additional subsidies to the long distance EU fleets, particularly those fishing in ACP waters like Senegal.

With particular reference to the fisheries agreement signed between EU and Senegal:

the access provided by the government of Senegal to coastal pelagic species threatens the food security and sustainable development for the local Senegalese community, and should therefore be stopped;

the link between the European Development Funds and the financial compensation provided by the fisheries agreement should be reviewed with the following conditions applied: support should be provided to women's activities, safety at sea should be improved by providing marker buoys at sea and light beacons ashore, the active participation of artisanal fishworkers (both women processors and fishermen) in the fisheries agreement negotiations and other policies that affect their sector should be permitted;

Therefore, and in solidarity, CNPS, the local committees from Cherbourg, Lower Normandy and Le Guilvinec, supported by the organizations Pêche et Développement and CFFA, so that their interests can be taken into account, demand active participation in the review of policies, both in Senegal and in Europe, which deal with fisheries agreements: the Common Fisheries Policy and the Lome Convention signed between the ACP states (African, Caribbean, and Pacific) and the EU.

CNPS: the National Collective of Senegalese artisanal fishworkers
CFFA: the Coalition for Fair Fisheries Agreements

Resolution 3

PROPOSED BY THE SRI LANKAN DELEGATION AND THE ASIAN GROUP

This august assembly of fish harvesters and fishworkers consisting of fisher delegates from all the continents of the world with respect unanimously decide as follows:

1. We call upon the Governments in the SAARC region especially India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Maldives to immediately release those genuine and innocent fishermen who are in jail in those respective countries as a mark of respect and appreciation of the formation of this World Forum of fisher people.
2. We call upon the Government of Sri Lanka and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Ealam (LTTE) to stop immediately the armed conflict and resume negotiations with a view to settle the disputes and end the war. We reiterate the fact that it is human lives that are being sacrificed from both sides. This war has very strongly affected the livelihood of the fishing communities all over Sri Lanka.

APPENDIX 4 – Memorandum to the Prime Minister of India

World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers Delhi, India, 17-21 November 1997

MEMORANDUM

Shri I.K. Gujral
Hon. Prime Minister of India
Parliament House
New Delhi 110 001

21 November, 1997

Sir,

We the undersigned, representing different fisherpeople's organizations from around the world, have come together to constitute a World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers. We intend to work together to protect fishing communities the world over from various threats to their livelihoods and for the sustainable harvest of fish resources. In this context, we express our solidarity with the fishworkers in India who are struggling in many ways to protect their livelihood. We wish to place on record our appreciation to the Government of India for having positively responded to the protests of the fishworkers against the entry of large fishing vessels through joint ventures, which would have affected their livelihoods adversely. We cannot but admire the Indian system which allows poor fishermen to organize and get their grievances redressed through organized protests and through an independent legal system.

We take this opportunity to place before you our considered view on the burning issue of industrial shrimp culture. Coming from 32 countries and from all the continents, we can vouch for the enormous destruction done by industrial shrimp culture to the environment as well as the livelihoods of local populations. We therefore share the strong apprehensions of the Indian fishermen about the Aquaculture Authority Bill, which is currently under the consideration of the Indian Parliament. If, as proposed in the Bill, the restrictions on aquaculture in the coastal zone are done away with, it will adversely affect a large number of fisherfolk and coastal inhabitants who had been given great hope by the landmark judgement of the Supreme Court of India.

We therefore, strongly urge the Government of India not to go ahead with the proposed version of the Bill and to take adequate steps to protect the coastal fishing communities and coastal resources from indiscriminate development of industrial aquaculture.

Yours faithfully,

Participants in the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers
(Signatures annexed)

APPENDIX 5– Ratified WFF Members

World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers Coordination Committee Namur, Belgium, 5-8 October 1998

MEMBERSHIP

Africa

SENEGAL

Collectif National des Pêcheurs Artisans du Sénégal (CNPS)
P.O. Box 3211, Dakar, SENEGAL
Tel.: (221) 832 1174, (221) 832 1175 /8219463

SOUTH AFRICA

Informal Fishing Communities
9, 8th Ave. Fairways Ottery, Cape Town 7800, SOUTH AFRICA
Tel.: (27) 21- 705 9183, Fax: (27) 21- 735 5213

(There is a need for a national-level fisher people organization)

Asia

BANGLADESH

Bangladesh Jele Federation
40 / A, Aziz Co. Market, (2nd Floor), Shahbag, Dhaka 1000, BANGLADESH
Tel.: (880) 2- 500830, Fax: (880) 2- 863 958, E-mail: icis@bangla.net

INDIA

National Fishworkers Forum (NFF)
Cherureshmi Centre, Valiathura, Thiruvananthapuram 695 008, INDIA
Tel.: (91) 471- 50 1376, Fax: (91) 471- 50 1376, E-mail: nff@md2.vsnl.net.in

MALAYSIA

Penang Inshore Fishermen's Welfare Association
375 Mukim J, Kampung Terang, 11000 Balik Pulau, Penang, MALAYSIA
Tel.: (60) 4- 229 3511, Fax:(60) 4- 229 8106,

(This is an NGO. However it gets membership because, politically, this is the only way to include membership from Malaysia)

PAKISTAN

All Pakistan Fisherfolk Federation
Sachal Hall, Jamate Market, Village: Ibrahim Hyderi, Malir, Karachi,
PAKISTAN
Tel.: (92) 21- 506 3729, Fax: (92) 21- 506 3729,
E-mail: mashah@mahigir.khi.sdnpk.undp.org

Fishing Community Network
Fishermen's Co-operative Society, P.O. Box 5328, West Wharf Rd., Karachi,
PAKISTAN
Tel.: (92) 21- 231 1688

(We have to try to bring about a national organization)

PHILIPPINES

Bigkis-Lakas Pilipinas, Inc.
C/O Asian Social Institute-Family Center, 1518 Leon Guinto Street, Malate,
Manila 1004, PHILIPPINES
Tel.: (63) 2- 523 8266, Fax: (63) 2- 526 6155

(There is a need for forming a national set-up by bringing together all the organizations
of fisher people)

SRI LANKA

United Federation of Labour
17. Barracks Road, Colombo 02, SRI LANKA
Tel.: (94) 1- 324053, 430621, Fax: (94) 1- 334822,

National Fisheries Solidarity
85, Katuwapitiya Road, Negombo, SRI LANKA
Tel.: (94) 31-22757, Fax: (94) 31- 38153, E-mail: nafsol@slt.lk

Women Development Federation
Vihara Mahadevi Mandiraya, Thangalla Road, Hambantota, SRI LANKA
Tel.: (94) 47- 2 0499 /2 1022, Fax: (94) 47- 2 0499

(There is need for bringing them together as one national body)

Europe

FRANCE

Comité Local des Pêches Maritimes de Cherbourg, Créée en gros du Poisson, Bassin du
Commerce, 50100, Cherbourg, FRANCE
Tel.: (33) 2- 33 43 21 92 / 88 69 00, Fax: (33) 2- 33 43 72 27

(This is only one of the organizations. The WFF Assistant Coordinator agreed to contact
all the other organizations and bring them to a national organization in France)

ICELAND

Landsamband Smabataeigenda,
[National Association of Small Boat Owners (NASBO)]
Klapparstigur 27, 101 Reykjavik, ICELAND
Tel.: (354) 551-2797/552-6595/552-7922, Fax: (354) 562-6590
E-mail; nasbo@vortex.is

U.K.

South Devon & Channel Shell Fishermen Ltd.
Leyburn, Torcross, Nr Kingsbridge, Devon (S), TQ7 2TJ, U. K.
Tel.: (44) 1548- 580 446, Fax: (44) 1548- 580 446

(The president of the organization, Chris Venmore, is very much interested; the same enthusiasm is to be created among its members)

Latin America

CHILE

Confederación Nacional de Pescadores Artesanales de Chile (CONAPACH)
Monte Alegre 398, Cerro Alegre, Valparaíso, CHILE
Tel.: (56) 32 -232603, Fax: (56) 32-232602

MEXICO

Sector Pesquero "Vaso Presa La Vilita"
Domicilio Conocido, Petacalco Guerrero, MPIO de la Unión, MEXICO

Red Nacional de Pescadores "José Luis Valdovinos Rosales"
Calle Puerto Zapata No. 22, Col. Ampliación Piloto C.P. 01298
Del. Alvaro Obregón, MEXICO D.F.
Tel.: (52) 643 7176, Fax: (52) 286 3710

(For the time being we have to depend on these organizations till we get a mass based national organization)

PERU

Federación de Integración y Unificación de los Pescadores Artesanales del Perú
(FIUPAP)
Calle Carlos Zavala Loayza, No. 144, Of. 207, Lima -1, PERU
Tel.: (51) 1- 428 5956, Fax: (51) 1- 428 5956

North America

CANADA

Canadian Council of Professional Fish Harvesters (CCPFH)/Conseil Canadien des
Pêcheurs Professionnels (CCPP)
71 Bank Street, Suite 700, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5N2, CANADA
Tel.: (613) 235-3474, Fax: (613) 231-4313, E-mail: ccpfh@fox.nstn.ca

U.S.A.

Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA)
215 Spruce Street, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019, U.S.A.
Tel.: (650) 726-1607, Fax: (650) 726-1607

(Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Association (GFWA) is very active in the WFF but they have not sent us the filled up agreement form yet. There is a need to bring the various organization together to form a national body)

Oceania & Pacific

NEW ZEALAND

Rongomaiwahine Trust Inc.
P.O. Box 33, Mahia Aotearoa, Aotearoa, NEW ZEALAND
Tel.: (64) 6- 837 5816, Fax: (64) 6- 837 5816

(This is the only contact that we have in the Pacific. We have to depend on this till we form a national network)

APPENDIX 6 – Statement on Over-Capacity and Fisheries Agreements

**World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers (WFF)
Coordination Committee
Namur, Belgium, 5-8 October 1998**

OVER-FISHING IN THE OCEANS

Statement on the exporting of the over-capacity crisis

Sustaining Fishing Livelihoods

200 million people worldwide are dependent on the fishery, either directly as fishers or indirectly as traders, processing workers, boat builders, etc. Fishing provides one of the world's principal sources of animal protein, generates vast wealth, and is growing in terms of production, employment and investment. According to the FAO, however, most of the world's fishing grounds are being exploited above sustainable levels, and are in urgent need of proper management. The problem is twofold: upward trends are misleading and provide a false sense of security, while conservation of stocks is being accorded higher priority than sustaining fishing livelihoods.

Over-investment in Fishing Technology

There is currently enormous over-investment in fishing technology. One per cent of the world's fishing fleet of 3.5 million vessels is composed of industrial or large-scale vessels. These represent more than 52% of the world's fishing capacity. Since 1970, their numbers have more than doubled, while increasing technological efficiency has tripled their fishing capacity. There are now at least 25 000 nomadic factory trawlers scouring the world's fishery resources in an effort to justify their huge investment and operating costs. The fishing industry has become a victim of its own success. Technological advances and capital investments have far outstripped resources. The global fleet is operating at a financial loss. Total estimated operating costs amount to \$116 billion (US), yet the value of the entire catch is only \$70 billion.

Threat to Small-scale Fisheries

Many countries, both northern (e.g. Canada and Europe) and southern (e.g. China and Korea), are now endeavouring to export their overcapacity and gain access to richer fishing grounds through fisheries access agreements. This poses a direct threat to many small-scale fisheries. For example, in 1996 the EU paid out some ECU 280 million to other – mainly southern – countries in exchange for fishing rights. China is now the owner of the world's largest distant water fishing fleet.

Responsibility and Fisheries Agreements

In order to ensure that fishing nations take their responsibilities seriously, there must be internationally recognized fisheries codes of practice. These would also be useful in ensuring coherence between potentially conflicting policies and interests.

Codes of practice are further made necessary by the inability of most developing countries to implement the provisions of UNCLOS, particularly those provisions dealing with assessing the status of fish stocks, establishing the maximum sustainable yield, and regulating and policing their waters. Moreover, fishing nations with industrial fleets have shown themselves to be either unable or unwilling to curb their excesses – both in their own and in distant waters.

FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

To ensure the sustainability of fisheries, the FAO has developed a *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*. This is intended to harmonize the environmental, social and economic aspects of the use of fisheries resources, and was approved by the FAO Conference in 1995. The *Code* is aimed at all states involved in the fishery. It provides a comprehensive framework for establishing coherence between potentially conflicting interests and policies. All FAO member states (which include all EU member states) are bound by the *Code's* provisions.

The World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers (WFF) supports the FAO in its efforts to implement the *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*, which will in turn provide a framework for establishing a *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries Agreements*.

In the context of fisheries agreements, responsibility means:

- Balancing the livelihood and nutritional rights of coastal populations with the need to generate foreign exchange earnings;
- Acknowledging the existence, activities and rights of artisanal and small-scale fishworkers when negotiating fisheries access agreements;
- Recognizing the limited capacity of the coastal state to manage, regulate and police its fisheries;
- Adopting a precautionary approach to determining levels of fishing effort and quota allocation, particularly where the information base is poor and there is a high degree of uncertainty about the health of fish stocks;
- Ensuring that patterns of fisheries exploitation do not undermine the sustainable use of fisheries resources to meet local needs;
- Ensuring that excessive fishing capacity is not deployed;
- Ensuring that fishing techniques used are selective and not environmentally destructive;
- Restricting by-catch and discard levels; and
- Recognizing emerging fisheries development of coastal states, and their changing priorities.

**Production alone cannot determine public interest
- Supreme Court of India**

In 1993, the Kerala Government imposed a ban on trawling during the monsoon season in order to protect breeding marine species. The association of trawler owners challenged the ban in the Supreme Court, arguing that the country was losing a large amount of fish that could be caught during this particular season. In rendering its verdict, the Supreme Court stated:

"We are also of the opinion that the Government of Kerala is perfectly justified in adopting the attitude that the public interest cannot be determined only by looking at the quantum of fish caught in a year. In other words, production alone cannot be the basis for determining public interest. The Government is perfectly justified in saying that it is under an obligation to protect the economic interest of the traditional fishermen and to ensure that they are not deprived of their slender means of livelihood. Whether one calls it distributive justice or development with a human face, the ultimate truth is that object of all development is the human being. There can be no development for the sake of development. Priorities ought not to be inverted nor the true perspective be lost in the quest for more production."

APPENDIX 7 – WFF Support to Umbergaon Protest (India)

World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers Coordination Committee Loctudy, France, 24-26 April 2000

Prime Minister of India
Parliament House
New Delhi 110001
India

Sir,

The World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers (WFF) condemns the atrocious acts of the Gujarat police on the night of the 7th April 2000 and 8th April 2000 thereafter at Umbergaon Taluka; where they beat up innocent people which led to hundreds of injuries plus the death of a Retd. Army colonel – who was the leader of the peoples resistance movement against Maroli-Umbergaon port project.

The WFF is an international organization representing the coastal family fishermen of 21 countries from all continents. The WFF is the single voice for the artisanal fishing men and women who have harvested food from the Oceans for centuries.

We condemn the actions of the Gujarat Government to allow a project that benefits only a few at the cost of the existing livelihoods of tens of thousands of fishing families.

We condemn the indiscriminate use of teargas, beating and torture inflicted on the helpless fisherwomen and children; the arrest of peaceful protestors on false charges; use of third degree on protestors in the police lock up; starving of those arrested and confining them in a tiny cell.

Our livelihoods depend on access to the Oceans. This proposed project will impede the activities that have been the economic base for the adjoining coastal communities. We request on investigation into the killing, and beating suffered by the protesters.

We also request that immediate halt to the Maroli port project, which is planned for construction by the Hatelco-Unocal multinational organization.

Thomas Kocherry
WFF General Coordinator, INDIA

François Poulin
WFF Assistant Coordinator, CANADA

André Le Berre, WFF Treasurer, FRANCE

Pietro Parravano, U.S.A.

Harekrishna Debnath, INDIA

Humberto Mella, CHILE

Daniel Bernier, CANADA
(Alternate to Earle McCurdy)

Dao Gaye, SENEGAL

Arthur Bogason, ICELAND

APPENDIX 8 – The Erika Case Resolution

World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers Coordination Committee Loctudy, France, 24-26 April 2000

26-04-2000 -

MARITIME PEOPLE HELD TO RANSOM

Why should people who depend on the sea (fishers, seafarers, and shellfish growers) be the only ones to pay for the misdeeds of large corporations?

The World Forum Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers expresses its indignation at the effects of the ERIKA disaster, and denounces all modes of production that leave no room for social rights, protection of the environment, and fair international trade.

We encourage people the world over to demand that their governments respect these three principles, which are closely linked.

We call on trade unions, professional organizations (both men and women), associations, political parties, and citizens from all walks of life to **demonstrate together** whenever there are oil spills, aquatic pollution, and abandoned ship's crews, in particular.

We demand, on a worldwide level, that:

1. The 'polluter should pay' principle should be applied:

- to ensure complete compensation for all victims of pollution, as well as restoration of the ecosystem
- to put in question energy systems and production modes which destroy life.

2. Shipping safety should be improved:

- *by putting a stop to the disinvestment in maritime professions by State governments : there is a need to train sea safety personnel, to strengthen coastal surveillance, etc*
- by rejecting the flag of convenience system, which is responsible for the depreciation and frequent ill-treatment of seafarers.

3. The shameful exploitation of the resources and populations of countries of the South:

- to prohibit the export of industrial countries' waste towards countries of the South
- to call a halt to the export of over-fishing towards countries of the South, especially coastal zone.

Faced with these attacks on the livelihood of coastal populations, the World Forum of Fish harvesters and Fishworkers call for a collective effort in the struggle against the quest for profit at any cost. Keep us informed about your initiatives so that they may be publicized as part of a 'vigilance unit' on our web-site: www.south-asian-initiative.org

Resolution signed by the members of the World Forum coordination committee, assembled together in Loctudy, France:

Thomas Kocherry
WFF General Coordinator
INDIA

François Poulin
WFF Assistant Coordinator
CANADA

Pietro Parravano
U.S.A.

André Le Berre
WFF Treasurer
FRANCE

Harekrishna Debnath
INDIA

Humberto Mella
CHILE

Daniel Bernier (Alternate to Earle McCurdy)
CANADA

Dao Gaye
SENEGAL

Arthur Bogason
ICELAND

APPENDIX 9 – Resolution on a Sole Representation by Country

World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers Coordination Committee Loctudy, France, 24-26 April 2000

COLLECTIF NATIONAL DES PECHEURS ARTISANAUX DU SENEGAL

Déclaration du CNPS a l'issue de la réunion du Bureau exécutif du 19 avril 2000.

Aux membres du Comité Directeur
Chers collaborateurs,

Après vous avoir adressé nos salutations et souhaité plein de succès pour votre réunion, nous nous sommes réunis à notre siège à HannPêcheurs en vue de préparer le voyage de M. Dao GAYE, Secrétaire Général du CNPS et membre du Comité de coordination.

A l'issue de notre réunion, le CNPS demande au comité de:

1. Maintenir l'idée d'une organisation par pays. Pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest, ceci est indispensable si nous voulons avoir un contrôle de notre réseau et éviter à ce que des forces extérieures le déstabilisent. Au Sénégal, le CNPS a souffert pendant ces deux dernières années des attaques de la part d'organisations montées de toute pièce et n'ayant pas les mêmes objectifs, ni la même philosophie que le CNPS.

Si nous tenons à notre philosophie, à notre cause commune, nous devons faire attention à des manipulateurs qui ne cessent de croître de la part d'organisations dont le principal objectif est d'infiltrer le réseau ce qui n'est pas sans engendrer de graves risques pour le forum dans la mesure où certaines organisations dites de pêches sont très liées aux pouvoirs politiques.

2. Faire preuve d'une extrême vigilance quand il s'agit d'étudier les demandes d'adhésion des nouveaux membres. Nos organisations souffrent de beaucoup de problèmes. Certains de nos problèmes viennent de nos contradictions internes locales. Mais il y a d'autres problèmes qui nous viennent de l'extérieur. Nous n'avons pas seulement des amis dans le Nord. Nos ennemis au Sénégal s'appuient sur leurs alliés en Europe pour s'imposer au niveau du forum. Tout récemment, des sénégalais ont effectué des missions en France exerçant des pressions sur des alliés du Forum en vue de leur adhésion. Ces personnes, comme certains de nos partenaires européens le savent, ne partagent ni les mêmes ambitions, ni les mêmes objectifs. Pire, ils ne cessent de nous faire la guerre au Sénégal. Nous souhaitons que le Forum soit ouvert au plus grand nombre. Cependant, nous tenons à notre sécurité et souhaitons que toute demande d'adhésion provenant du Sénégal, même à titre consultatif, soit soumis pour accord au Cnps.
3. Le Forum doit avoir au préalable l'accord de ses membres pour toute nouvelle demande émanant des continents ou sous continents. Nous demandons d'être contacté pour avis formel et favorable à toute demande émanant du continent. Nous invitons nos différents collaborateurs d'arrêter de faire de l'ingérence dans les affaires intérieures aux organisations africaines.

Pour le CNPS et p.o
Le Vice Président

APPENDIX 10 – Struggle Support

World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers Coordination Committee San Francisco, California, U.S.A., 4-8 October 1999

INDIA

WFF SUPPORTS CHILIKA STRUGGLE

The Co-ordination Committee of the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers expresses its deep anguish and serious concern over the atrocities inflicted on the fisher people of Chilika in Orissa in India in recent times. Chilika, one of the large brackish water lakes in the world, is the sole source of livelihood for the fishing communities living around it.

The invasion of the lake by commercial shrimp aquaculture farms has been a matter of grave concern for the fisherfolk over the last few years. The majority of these fisher people have been displaced from their traditional source of living and are on the verge of total destitution. They have been struggling for restoration of their rights over the lake and expulsion of the encroaching shrimp farms, but all their appeals have fallen on deaf ears.

The WFF Co-ordination Committee extends its full support to the demands of the fisher folk and calls upon the government of Orissa and the central government of India to take appropriate steps immediately to free the Chilika lake from shrimp aquaculture and to establish the undisputed and irreversible customary rights of the fishing community over the lake.

The WFF Co-ordination Committee decides to continue to support the Chilika Matsyajibi Mahasangha (CMM) in the battle for establishing the rights of the fishing community, and to highlight the issue at all levels during the World Fisheries Day celebrations on November 21st 1999.

We stand united with the fisher people of Chilika Lake, several of whom have laid down their lives for the right to fish.

Executed at San Francisco, California, this 8th day of October 1999

Signed:

Thomas Xavier Kocherry, general coordinator
World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers
INDIA

François Poulin, assistant coordinator
World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers
Canadian Council of Professional Fish Harvesters
Alliance des pêcheurs professionnels du Québec
CANADA

André Le Berre, treasurer
World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers
French National Association of Artisanal Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers
Comité Local des Pêches Maritimes du Guilvinec
FRANCE

Harekrishna Debnath
National Fishworkers' Forum
INDIA

Pietro Parravano
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations
U.S.A

Earl McCurdy
Canadian Council of Professional Fish Harvesters
Fish Food and Allied Workers
CANADA

Dao Gaye
Collectif National des pêcheurs artisanaux du Sénégal
SENEGAL

Arthur Bogason
National Association of small boat-owners
ICELAND

Humberto Mella
Confederación Nacional de Pescadores Artesanales de Chile (CONAPACH)
CHILE

CANADA

FRASER SOCKEYE CRISIS ACTION

WHEREAS, fish harvesters, first nations and the communities of British Columbia, Canada, have formed a broad coalition to address the Fraser River Sockeye crisis; and

WHEREAS, the lack of action by governments in Canada to address their serious biological and economic crisis has become of such grave concern that three people have begun a hunger strike in British Columbia.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Coordinating Committee of the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers supports the Fraser River Sockeye Crisis Committee's demand for recognition by both levels of government that a natural disaster has occurred and that a formal process be immediately established to negotiate with the Crisis Committee for compensation for those whose livelihoods have been affected.

Executed this 8th day of October 1999, at San Francisco, California.

Signed by:

Thomas Kocherry
WFF General Coordinator, INDIA

François Poulin
WFF Assistant Coordinator, CANADA

André Le Berre
WFF Treasurer, FRANCE

Pietro Parravano
Pacific Coast Federation of
Fishermen's Associations, U.S.A.

Harekrishna Debnath
National Fishworkers' Forum, INDIA

Humberto Mella
Confederación Nacional de Pescadores
Artesanales de Chile, CHILE

Earle McCurdy
Canadian Council of Professional
Fish Harvesters (CCPFH), CANADA

Dao Gaye
Collectif National des Pêcheurs Artisanaux
du Sénégal, SENEGAL

Arthur Bogason
National Association of Small
Boat Owners, ICELAND

Christine Hunt
Native Brotherhood of British Columbia
/CCPFH, CANADA

Barbara Stickel
Pacific Coast Federation of
Fishermen's Associations, U.S.A.

Dominique Saulx-Galliano
FRANCE

Daniel Bernier
Canadian Council of Professional
Fish Harvesters, CANADA

Daniel Lefevre
Comité Local des Pêches Maritimes
de Cherbourg, FRANCE

John Sutcliffe
United Fishermen and Allied Workers
Union/CCPFH, CANADA

CHILE

LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE

(WFF also networked with other persons and groups when Humberto Mella was beaten up and arrested in Chile)

August 4, 1999

Eduardo Frei
Presidente República de Chile
Palacio de La Moneda
Santiago de Chile
CHILE

Respected President:e:

The World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers like to register our strong protest against the brutal police beating on Mr. Humberto Mella who is also a coordination committee member of WFF. Fishworkers all over the world extend their solidarity and support to the struggling fishworkers against fisheries privatization in Chile.

The police action against protesting fishworkers can never be tolerated by anyone and warrants severe condemnation. The livelihood of fishworkers should be given the first priority in any development processes.

ITQs though welcomed initially in many countries turned out to be a disaster for small scale fisheries as big operators bought ITQs from smaller operators, thus putting the very survival of the fishing community at risk.

We request you not to introduce ITQs and also take action against officers who were responsible for the beating of Humberto Mella.

Expecting a positive action

Yours faithfully,

Thomas Kocherry
WFF General Coordinator

First report of Constitution Committee

Article 1

Accepted as per CC draft.

Article 3

Insert in first paragraph : "subject to article 4" before "Only one..."

Para. 1. iv) Coastal and inland fishers

Para 4. Change "sale" to "direct sale"

Para 5. Large corporations, Trans National Companies and allied affiliates owning fishing vessels or engaged in harvesting, processing and distribution of fish and those carrying out destructive industrial fishing or industrial aquaculture cannot be members of the forum. Otherwise, no change from CC draft.

Article 4

Change "a) to d)" in last line to read "1 to 4".

Article 5

Every active member of the WFF must accept and abide by the obligations and content of this Constitution.

Article 6

Accepted as per CC draft.

Article 7

Add : In very exceptional circumstances, the CC may waive the payment of fees by a particular member for a period of time.

Article 8

(a) The CC may, after two reminders, by two-thirds vote... (Balance of article 8 as per CC draft).

(d) Any suspension maybe appeal to the General Assembly.

Article 9

The General Assembly may by two-thirds vote expel a member for actions detrimental to the objectives of the WFF provided that :

(a) Change "according" to "appropriate".

(b) As per CC draft.

Article 10

Article 11

Reverse order of the two paragraphs. Otherwise, as per CC draft.

Article 12

Add :

(e) To conduct elections as per the provisions of this Constitution.

(f) To ratify, annul or senate decisions made by CC and the Regional Council.

Article 13

Reserve.

Article 14

As per CC draft.

Article 15

As per CC draft.

Article 16

(a) The WFF shall seek to resolve all decisions through consensus. Where consensus cannot be achieved, the following provisions shall apply.

(b) Votes involving constitutional approval and amendments, expulsion of members or the dissolution of the WFF shall require two-thirds majority vote of delegates voting... (same as (a) in CC draft).

(c) All other decisions of the General Assembly shall be made by simple majority (50% + 1) of the number of votes validly cast.

Article 17

As per CC draft.

Article 18

As per CC draft.

Article 22

Add : (a) change "promote" to "facilitate"

(t) Takes care of preparing a budget and managing finances of WFF in accordance with article 37.

Article 24

Add : [(c) The CC will fill vacancies that may arise on the CC, respecting decisions of the Regional Councils where appropriate.]

Otherwise as per CC draft.

Article 25

As per CC draft with the following working added to the beginning : "subject to any amendments that may be adopted by the General Assembly.

Article 26

As per CC draft (second option).

Article 26a

(d) To co-ordinate WFF activities according to the WFF constitution, the objectives of the WFF and the decisions of the General Assembly, the CC and the [Executive Committee].

Article 26b

The term of office for [Co-ordinator, Assistant Co-ordinator, Treasurer [and General Secretary] shall be for the period until the next General Assembly (normally three years). No individual may be elected to more than two consecutive terms for any of these positions.

Article 26 C

- Add :
- (b) To preside over meetings of the General Assembly and the Coordinating Committee in the absence of the Coordinator
 - (c) To perform all functions delegated by the General Co-ordination.
 - (d) To assume a position of Co-ordination in the event of a vacancy.

Article 26 D

Delete.

Article 26 E

- (c) To spend money as per a decision of the CC or written instructions from the General Co-ordination and assistant Co-ordinator collectively.
 - (d) To have the accounts of the WFF independently audited every year.
- Otherwise, as per CC draft.

Article 26 F

Delete.

Article 26 G (new)

Duties of General Secretary :

- (a) Work under the direction of the Co-ordinator.
- (b) Keep official records of the WFF.
- (c) Maintain communication with WFF members.
- (d) Carry out tasks assigned by CC or Co-ordinator.

Article 26(H) (new)

[The Coordinator, Assistant Co-ordinator, Treasurer and General Secretary] shall be elected by the General Assembly.

Article 37

Add : CC shall not accept funds from large corporations or any other body acting in a manner contrary to the objectives of WFF.

Article 38

Delete (redundant).

New article 38 Quorum

Quorum for the purpose 1 WFF meeting shall be as follow

- (a) General Assembly – two-thirds of delegates
- (b) CC – 50% + 1

Article 39

The dissolution of WFF shall require two-thirds majority vote of delegates voting and shall also require a simple majority (50% +1) of the countries which are represented by delegates at the General Assembly. In the event that the delegates from a country are equally divided on the question subject to vote, that country will be deemed to abstain from voting for the purpose of obtaining the simple majority expected.

Delete 2nd paragraph

Article 40

As per CC draft

Article 41

As per CC draft

Article 42

Between General Assemblies, the CC has the authority in matters concerning the interpretation of this Constitution.

Article 43

As per CC draft

- From the Delhi report.

**FIRST DRAFT OF THE INTERIM ARRANGEMENT CHARTER IS PRESENTED.
THE DRAFT FOLLOWS**

First Drafting Committee Proposal

**World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers
Charter Proposed by the Steering Committee**

1. Objectives :

To establish a world forum of fish harvesters and fishworkers' organizations

The World Forum will work to :

1. Protect and enhance the coastal communities that depend on the fishery for their livelihood
2. Create an understanding of the resources as a collective heritage and ensure, through sustainable fishing, conservation and regeneration of the resources and the marine ecosystem, that it is passed on to future generations.
3. Protect fishing communities and fish resources from both land based and sea based threats, e.g displacement by tourism, pollution, aquaculture, overfishing and destructive fishing practices.
4. Maintain and promote a regime that will ensure the traditional and customary rights of coastal communities to the fishery.
5. Promote the primary role of fish harvesters and fishworkers' organizations in managing fisheries and oceans, nationally and internationally.
6. Ensure food security both locally and worldwide through sustaining stocks for the future
7. Represent fish harvesters and fishworkers in all appropriate international and regional fora and advocate for their recognition in such organisations (e.g. ILO, FAO, UN)
8. Serve as a watchdog to ensure compliance by states with international agreements and to prevent the export of the fishery crisis and of technologies that lead to this crisis.
9. Provide mutual support for national and international struggles
10. Encourage fish harvesters and fishworkers to organize where such organization does not exist.
11. Recognize, preserve and enhance the role of women in the fishing economy and in the sustenance of the community.
12. Secure and develop the economic viability and quality of life of fish harvesters, fishworkers and their communities.

13. Preserve and enhance the unique culture of fishing communities
14. Affirm a culture of the sea as mother and source of life.

II. Membership

1. Constituencies

A. Organizations of the following constituencies can be members of the Forum :

i) Fish Harvesters

- artisanal and subsistence fishers
- aboriginal or indigenous fishers
- owner operator / proprietaire embarque
- traditional coastal fishers
- independent coastal fishers
- crew members in this sector

b). Crew members in fishing units other than those above, who are presently members of natic

c). Mass based community organizations of women of the fishing community who are engaged in work to sustain the fishery.

d) Fishworkers : all those who work in the fishing industry

- plant workers
- shore workers
- fish workers
- fish transportation workers

B. Corporations owning vessels or processing plants cannot be members of the Forum.

Types of organizations

1. Members may be organizations such as trade unions, associations and federations of cooperatives that are democratically constituted.
2. There should preferably be only one organization per country
3. Only national organizations of the constituencies defined above can have members, with exceptions where no unique national organization exists.
4. In the case where no national organizations exist, organizations seeking membership should be representative of a significant proportion of the constituencies listed above.
5. Exceptions to the above can be made by the coordination committee, in keeping with objectives of the Forum.

III. Structure

Interim Structure

1. Organizations represented at this meeting as delegates, and who wish to become members, will be considered interim members.
2. The steering Committee of this Forum will serve as the Interim Coordination Committee (ICC).
3. The ICC will :

Carry out all the regular duties or tasks of a coordinating committee of any international organization

Define a charter

Hold a constituents assembly

Establish mechanisms to accept new members, and accept new interim members.

Proposed Final Structure of the WFF

1. Organizations at the national level (See II.2) will constitute the General Assembly of the WFF.
2. A Coordinating Committee will be formed through regional representation. This committee should be larger than the present ICC
3. Regions/Continents

There Should be more than one representative from each region or continent. This representation should take into consideration the balance of gender If members of a region so wish, they can create a regional WFF council for coordination and consultation at the regional level. Membership, however, shall be directly in the WFF, not in this regional council.

IV. Funding

1. The WFF shall be self Financing
2. Members organizations shall pay a membership fee. Those member organisations capable or desirous of making special additional contributions may do so.
3. The Forum shall accept only those contributions that are consistent with its objectives.

WORLD FORUM OF FISH HARVESTERS AND FISH WORKERS

Policy Committee POLICY PAPER DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The aim of the following process is to draft the WFF policy paper. The process will allow all delegates of the WFF Constituent Assembly to have an active role in the elaboration of the WFF policies.

1. The presentations and case studies

The presentations and case studies would be the ground for the policies development.

During the plenary at the Constituent Assembly, these cases would be presented to the participants. The presentations would raise the important questions and challenges to be addressed by the participants in workshops.

The proposed case studies and presenters are the following:

- The Fishery Policy and globalization:

A Global Perspective

Charles Menzies

Women's, WFF :
Community approach

Chandrika Sharma
Danièle Le Sauce

The WTO

Victor Menotti

- The fishery management and environnement:

The impact of tourism on fisheries

• Aliou Sall (TBC)

The Coastal zone protection

Pedro Avendano
Charles Capricho

The Erika oil spill

Jean-Baptiste Henry

Ocean pollution and its effects
on coastal communities

Angela San Filipo

2. The Workshops

After the presentation the delegates and the observers would group into 4 (four) workshops. They would discuss the cases and propose the directive lines of what should be the Forum policies on the different issues.

The animators would conduct the work in each workshop. A note taker (Rapporteur) would also collaborate with the animators in each workshop:

Workshops :	Facilitators :	Rapporteurs :
Group A	Daniele Le Sauce	Daniel Bernier
Group B	Victor Menotti	Laure Pecquerie
Group C	Pedro Avendano	Christian Le Meute
Group D	Charles Menzies	Shandrika Sharma

3. The proposals' compilation

After the workshops, the policy development team would meet to compile all the proposals and recommendations. The proposals would be reviewed and organized by categories. Then, the different avenues of policies identified by all the participants in the workshops would be presented in plenary for discussion and adoption.

4. The plenary session

The policy development team would present the stakes of the different proposals related with each case study. The assembly would then adopt the WFF policies proposals in relation with the WFF's objectives.

ICSF
FOR DIGITIZATION
DATE: 23/11/2018

100 pages