

WORLD FORUM

of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers



Coordination Committee Meeting San Francisco, California (U.S.A.)

October 4-8, 1999

REPORT

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**World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF)
Coordination Committee Meeting, San Francisco, USA.
October 4-8, 1999**

The Coordination Committee of the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers took place at the youth hostel of Point Montara Lighthouse, Half Moon Bay, California, USA on 4-8 October 1999.

PRESENT: François Poulin, Pietro Parravano, Harekrishna Debnath, Humberto Mella, André Le Berre, Earle McCurdy, Dao Gaye, Arthur Bogason and Thomas Kocherry.

ABSENT: Charles Capricho, Silvia Gonzalez Sánchez.

OBSERVERS: Christine Hunt, Barbara Stickel, Dominique Saux-Galliano, Daniel Bernier, Daniel Lefevre and John Sutcliffe.

TRANSLATORS: James Smith and Eliot de Bernier.

Pietro Parravano welcomed the gathering and each one shared what happened in each region and the struggles and agonies of each organization. Everyone shared how World Fisheries Day would be celebrated and reaffirmed that the WFD would also be celebrated with renewed vigour this year. Then the report and accounts were read out. Afterwards, the CC discussed the draft constitution and took the following decisions:

Decision 1

It was decided that the Gloucester Fishermen's Wife's Association USA, the Norges Kystfiskarlag of Norway, and the French National Association of Artisanal Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (from now on known as the French Branch of the WFF) were accepted as members of the WFF.

Decision 2

It was decided that further inquiry be made into the nature of the Food and Allied Workers' Union of South Africa and the *Association des Pêcheurs et Pisciculteurs de la République du Mali*.

Decision 3

It was decided that the annual fee would remain US \$ 250.00 but if a member organization informed that it was unable to afford this amount, the Coordination Committee would be authorized to accept a lesser membership fee from such organization based on that organization's financial capacity.

<p>NB: The organizations that have not yet paid their fees please send the amount to the account as follows:</p>

**FORUM MONDIAL DES PÊCHEURS ET TRAVAILLEURS DE LA PÊCHE
COMITÉ LOCAL DES PÊCHES CRIÉE DU GUILVINEC BP 71**

Banque	Guichet	Compte	Cle RIB
15589	29723	03664190040 19	
Domiciliation			
CM	LE	GUILVINEC	

Decision 4

It was decided that US \$3,487 be transferred to the WFF office in Thiruvananthapuram towards the expenses from 16 June 1998 to 31 August 1999.

Decision 5

It was decided that the banking methods of the WFF account in *Le Guilvinec* be checked with the bank in order to find an easier, more efficient and less expensive way of making transactions.

- An accompanying letter should be sent to the treasurer when transfers are made by a member organization or a funding agency;
- The treasurer should send a receipt to the donor to confirm that a money transfer has been credited to the account.

It was reaffirmed that money would be disbursed according to the project proposal at the joint request of the Coordinator and the Assistant Coordinator.

Decision 6

After discussion, the article 13 a), 13 b) and 16 a) are adopted.

Then the Coordination Committee deliberated on the draft constitution and the following changes were made:

DRAFT CONSTITUTION (Agreed modifications)

PREAMBLE

(Agreed)

Whereas the fishing grounds and the coastal zone around the world are facing crisis, there is a desire on the part of the world's fishing communities to unite in order to uphold the human rights, fundamental rights, social justice and culture of fish harvesters and fishworkers, affirming the sea as source of all life and committing themselves to sustain fisheries and aquatic resources for the present and future generations to protect their livelihood.

Article 1 - Forum Established

(Agreed)

A permanent international organization is hereby established to be called the "World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers" (WFF), whose goal shall be the attainment of the objectives set out in this constitution.

Article 2 - Objectives

(Agreed)

- e) To protect fishing communities, fish resources and fish habitats, such as coastal zones, watersheds, and mangroves, from both land-based and sea-based threats. These include displacement by tourism, pollution (including the use of the sea as a dumping ground for toxic waste), destructive industrial aquaculture, over fishing and destructive fishing practices.

Article 3 - Active Members

(Agreed)

- v) "Independent owner-operators" (the rest is deleted)
- e) deleted

Article 4 and Article 5

These articles are deleted.

Article 6

This article becomes Article 4.

Article 4 - Admission of Members (Agreed)

Only the Coordination Committee may admit active members. In exceptional cases, the Coordination Committee may, while respecting the objectives set out in Article 2 of this constitution, admit as an active member more than one national group per country if the organization represents a significant proportion of the groups or one of the groups listed in subsections a) to d) of Article 3 of this constitution.

Article 7

This article becomes Article 5 - Commitment (Agreed)

Article 8

This article becomes Article 6 (Agreed)

Article 9

This article becomes Article 7 (Agreed)

Article 10

This article becomes Article 8.

Article 8 - Suspension of Members (Agreed)

- a) The Coordination Committee may by two-thirds vote suspend a member for non-payment of fees. Such suspension will be removed upon payment of the outstanding fees.
- b) The Coordination Committee may by two-thirds vote suspend a member for actions detrimental to the objectives of the WFF, provided that the Coordination Committee allows the member reasonable opportunity for a hearing before any decision concerning a suspension is made.
- c) No suspended member may take part in the work of the WFF nor vote at the General Assembly.

Article 11

This article becomes Article 9

Article 9 - Expulsion (Agreed)

The Coordination Committee may by two-thirds vote expel a member for cause provided that

- a) Expulsion has been recommended by a two-thirds majority of the according regional council, if a regional council exists for that region.
- b) The Coordination Committee has given the member reasonable opportunity for a hearing into the actions giving rise to a consideration of expulsion.

Article 12

This article becomes Article 10 (Agreed).

Article 13

This article becomes Article 11(Agreed).

Article 14

This article becomes Article 12 (Agreed).

Article 15

This article becomes Article 13.

Article 13 - Member Representation at the General Assembly (Agreed)

- a) Each country with at least one active member shall be entitled to representation at the General Assembly by two delegates, one of whom shall be male and the other female.
- b) Large countries as designated by the Coordination Committee shall be entitled to a third delegate.
- c) Each active member shall be entitled to nominate auditors, and/or alternate delegates to participate at the General Assembly with the right to speak.
- d) The nomination of auditors and alternative delegates must be approved by the Coordination Committee.

Article 16

This article becomes Article 14.

Article 14 - Designation of Delegates (Agreed)

- a) Active members shall name their delegates in writing to the Coordination Committee no less than 90 days before the General Assembly takes place.
- b) In the case of a country with more than one active member, the active members in the respective country shall try to agree on the delegates' representation. In the event that the active members in the respective country are unable to agree on the delegates' representation, they may refer the matter to the Coordination Committee for a binding decision.

(Please note that each member of the WFF and his or her respective country will have to follow this for sending the delegates and auditors to the CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY of 2-6 October 2000)

Article 17

This article becomes Article 15.

Article 15 - Right To Vote (Agreed)

Each delegate has the right to vote on any item put before the General Assembly.

Article 18

This article becomes Article 16.

Article 16 - Majority (Agreed)

- a) Votes involving constitutional approval and amendments, suspension or expulsion of a member and the dissolution of the WFF, shall require two thirds majority vote of delegates voting and shall also require the support of 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 the vote, that country will be deemed to abstain from voting for the purpose of obtaining the simple majority expected.
- b) All other decisions at the General Assembly shall be made by simple majority (50% + 1) of the number of votes validly cast. However, we should first try to reach a consensus in our decision-making.

Article 19

This article becomes Article 17 (Agreed)

Article 18 - Frequency of the General Assembly (Agreed) [This article is new]

The General Assembly shall take place at least once every three (3) years as decided by the Coordination Committee.

Article 20

This article becomes Article 19. (This has to be finalized either at the next Coordination Committee meeting or at the General Assembly).

Article 21

This article becomes Article 20. (This has to be finalized either at the next Coordination Committee meeting or at the General Assembly).

(Articles 21a and 21b, which would become Articles 20a and 20b will have to be finalized either at the next Coordination Committee meeting or at the General Assembly).

Article 22

This article becomes Article 21

Article 21 - Officers of the Coordination Committee (Agreed)

Besides the two existing alternatives, there are two more proposals:

- There shall be two coordinators and one treasurer.
- There shall be one general coordinator, two general secretaries and one treasurer.

Article 23

This article becomes Article 22 (Agreed)

Article 24

This article becomes Article 23.

Article 23 - Term of Office of Coordination Committee Members (Agreed)

The mandate of Coordination Committee members shall be for the period until the next General Assembly. Normally the mandate will be for a term of three (3) years.

Article 25

This article becomes Article 24.

Article 24 - Vacancies of the Coordination Committee Members (Agreed)

- a) If an active member files a written complaint that a member of the Coordination Committee is no longer acting in accordance with the objectives of the World Forum, this matter will be referred to the appropriate regional council. If, upon hearing the representations of the complainant and of the member of the Coordination Committee complained about, the Regional Council determines that the member of the Coordination Committee is no longer acting in accordance with the objectives of the World Forum, the Regional Council shall have the authority to remove that person from the Coordination Committee. This decision may be appealed to the Coordination Committee.

If no regional council exists in the region in which the complaint originates, the matter shall be referred to the Coordination Committee for a decision.

- b) If an active member notifies the Coordination Committee that a member of the Coordination Committee no longer holds the position that provided the political base for his or her election to the Coordination Committee, this matter will be referred to the appropriate regional council. If the Regional Council determines that this notification is valid, the Regional Council shall be authorized to declare this position vacant.

If no regional council exists in the region in which the notification originates, the matter shall be referred to the Coordination Committee for a decision.

Article 26

This article becomes Article 25.

Article 25 - Vote (Agreed)

Each member of the Coordination Committee has the right to one (1) vote. Decisions shall be made by a simple majority.

Article 27 to Article 37

Article 27 to Article 37 will have to be finalized at the next Coordination Committee meeting or at the Constituent Assembly.

Article 38

This article becomes Article 37.

Article 37 - Financing (Agreed)

Revenues for the WFF shall derive from the following:

- membership fees;
- donations or grants deemed acceptable by the Coordination Committee;
- any other source deemed acceptable by the Coordination Committee.

Article 39

This article becomes Article 38. Voting procedure is as defined in Article 16.

Article 40

This article becomes Article 39. Voting procedure is as defined in Article 16.

Article 41

This article becomes Article 40.

Article 42

This article becomes Article 41.

Article 43

This article becomes Article 42.

Article 44

This article becomes Article 43.

Article 43 - Status (Agreed)

The World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF) is an independent organization. (The second paragraph remains)

Article 45

This article becomes Article 44.

Article 44 - Coming into Force (Agreed)

This constitution shall come into force following its approval at a General Assembly in accordance with the provisions contained herein. Upon such approval, this constitution shall replace the WFF interim charter of 1997.

The full changed version of the constitution is given in Appendix 1.

ACCEPTED PROPOSALS

The following proposals were presented by the Coordinator and the Assistant Coordinator to the WFF CC on 8 October 1999 and were passed as decisions.

- a) It was confirmed that the WFF Constituent Assembly would be in Loctudy, France on 2-6 October 2000.
- b) It was decided that the next WFF CC meeting would be on 24,25,26 April 2000 in Loctudy.
- c) It was decided that boarding and lodging, French, Spanish and English translation, mass media and press, and photocopy and computer services would be looked after by the WFF French Branch led by André Le Berre.
- d) It was decided that the following countries would have a third delegate with the active and passive right of vote: India, Pakistan, Philippines, Chile, USA, and Canada.
- e) It was decided to use the following logistics during the Constituent Assembly:

2 October 2000

- Invite the French President to inaugurate the Constituent Assembly.
- If he does not come, invite the French Fisheries Minister.
- Present the WFF report from Delhi to Loctudy including the draft WFF Constitution.
- Divide the Assembly into different groups and discuss the draft constitution with amendments and proposals (Group work).

There should be a constitutional committee to facilitate the process. This committee should be proposed to the general body by the WFF CC at the beginning of the Constituent Assembly for its approval.

3 October 2000

Morning: Group work continues.

Afternoon: Presentation of group reports with amendments and proposals.

(The Constitutional Committee works out the final draft based on the group reports.)

4 October 2000

Preparation of a fisheries policy statement based on the WFF objectives. Three papers should be presented. John Kurian's name was agreed upon. The other two names are to be finalized at the next WFF CC meeting. The papers will be discussed by the group. The three resource persons will work out the final draft of the fisheries policy statement. (The afternoon and evening will be free and group outings to different fishing centers may be arranged.)

5 October 2000

The final draft of the constitution and a final fisheries policy statement will be presented, discussed and passed. In the evening, regional meetings will be held and the elections will take place.

6 October 2000

The WFF Coordination Committee will be elected and will meet for planning.

- f) It was decided to bring the exhibits from Senegal (CNPS) and South Africa for the Constituent Assembly in Loctudy.
- g) It was decided that the travelling expenses of the delegates from the southern developing countries would be met by the WFF according to the project proposal.
- h) It was decided that the Canadian Council would try to get more funds from the *Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer*.
- i) It was decided to invite some NGOs such as FAO, ILO, UNESCO, UNO, WHO, ICSF to attend the Constituent Assembly as observers under the condition that they look after their own travel expenses.
- j) It was decided that each one should take the responsibility to encourage a maximum number of members for the WFF. These possible members should be presented for approval at the next WFF-CC meeting.

Contacts:

- *Spanish-speaking countries*: Brian, Beatrice Gorez and Thomas Kocherry
- *Europe*: Arthur Bogason.
- *South Africa*: Andy Johnston, Brian O’Riordan and Beatrice Gorez
- *Australia & Mexico*: François Poulin.
- *Japan and China*:

- k) It was decided that Pietro Parravano and Thomas Kocherry would issue a statement to resolve the conflicts among the fishing communities in Canada.

Finally, the WFF CC was concluded by a sharing by François Poulin, Humberto Mella singing a Chilean song and Harekrishna Debnath singing a Bengali song. It was a very touching conclusion. WFF Coordinator thanked everybody, particularly Pietro Parravano and the team, for making the WFF CC a historic event. The CC members would like to thank Christine Hunt and Arthur Bogason for the presents, which they gave them. The Coordinator also thanked Pietro for making every arrangement possible, such as visiting the aquarium, fishing in the sea, meeting the press, organizing a reception and barbecue. It was a wonderful experience.

WORLD FORUM

of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers



Coordination Committee Meeting
San Francisco, California (U.S.A.)
October 4-8, 1999

APPENDIX 1
CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE (Agreed)

Whereas the fishing grounds and the coastal zone around the world are facing crisis, there is a desire on the part of the world's fishing communities to unite in order to uphold the human rights, fundamental rights, social justice and culture of fish harvesters and fishworkers, affirming the sea as source of all life and committing themselves to sustain fisheries and aquatic resources for the present and future generations, to protect their livelihood.

ESTABLISHMENT AND OBJECTIVES

Article 1: Forum Established (Agreed)

A permanent international organization is hereby established to be called the "World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers" (WFF), whose goal shall be the attainment of the objectives set out in this constitution.

Article 2: Objectives (Agreed)

The objectives of the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF) shall be:

- a) To protect, defend and strengthen the communities that depend on the fishery for their livelihood.
- b) To assist member organizations to secure and improve upon the economic viability and quality of life of fish harvesters, fishworkers, and their communities.
- c) To recognize, protect and enhance the role of women in the fishing economy and in the sustenance of the community.
- d) To create an understanding of the resource as a common heritage of humanity and, through sustainable fishing practices, conservation, and regeneration of the marine and inland resources and ecosystems, to ensure that it is passed on to future generations.
- e) To protect fishing communities, fish resources and fish habitats, such as coastal zones, watersheds and mangroves, from both land-based and sea-based threats. These include displacement by tourism, pollution (including the use of the sea as a dumping ground for toxic waste), destructive industrial aquaculture, over fishing and destructive fishing practices.
- f) To establish and assert the rights of fishing communities to their customary territories in the coastal zone under their national jurisdiction for fishing and habitation.
- g) To promote a legal regime that will ensure the traditional and customary rights of fishing communities to the fishery under their national jurisdiction.
- h) To promote the primary role of fish harvester and fishworker organizations in managing fisheries and oceans, nationally and internationally.
- i) To promote food security, both locally and worldwide, by sustaining fish stocks for the future, and by reserving fish for human consumption.

- j) To promote equitable representation of fish harvester and fishworker organizations in all relevant regional and international fora and advocate their recognition.
- k) To play a monitoring role to ensure that states and transnational corporations comply with relevant international agreements and to oppose any trade agreements that threaten the livelihood of fishers.
- l) To prevent the export of resource collapse crises and of technologies and practices that lead to these crises.
- m) To provide support for national and international struggles that are consistent with the objectives of the World Forum.
- n) To encourage, assist and support fish harvesters and fishworkers to organize where they have not already done so.
- o) To promote the right of fish harvesters and fishworkers to social security, safe working conditions, fair income and safety at sea, as well as their recognition as seafarers.
- p) To improve the communication between fish harvesters and the scientific community through the exchange of knowledge and science.
- q) To acknowledge and enhance the unique culture of fishing communities.

MEMBERSHIP

Article 3: Active Members (Agreed)

Organizations which comply with the objectives set out in Article 2 of this constitution may be members of the *World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF)*. Only one national organization per country may be a member. Such organizations must be democratically constituted and may include, but not be limited to, trade unions, associations, federations of cooperatives and aboriginal nations dependent on the fishery for their livelihood. They must represent one of the groups set out below:

1. *Fish harvesters*, i.e. any person directly engaged in fishing, known in different countries as:
 - i) Subsistence fishers;
 - ii) Artisanal fishers;
 - iii) Aboriginal or indigenous peoples who are fish harvesters;
 - iv) Traditional coastal fishers;
 - v) Independent owner-operators;
 - vi) Crew members in this sector.
- r) Crewmembers of fishing units other than those mentioned above and who are presently members of organizations listed under subsection a).
- s) Broadly based (mass-based) organizations of fishing community women engaged in work in support of the fishery.
- t) Fish workers who are engaged in activities related to the processing, sale (excluding merchants) or transport of fish.

Article 4: Admission of Members (Agreed)

Only the Coordination Committee may admit active members. In exceptional cases, the Coordination Committee may, while respecting the objectives set out in Article 2 of this constitution, admit as an active member more than one national group per country if the organization represents a significant proportion of the groups or one of the groups listed in subsections a) to d) of Article 3 of this constitution.

Article 5: Commitment (Agreed)

Every active member of the *World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF)* must formally accept the obligations and content of this constitution.

Article 6: Withdrawal of Members (Agreed)

Any member may withdraw from the *World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF)* by giving three (3) months notice to the Coordination Committee.

Article 7: Fees (Agreed)

The fee schedule as well as the method of payment shall be fixed by the Coordination Committee.

Article 8: Suspension of Membership (Agreed)

- u) The Coordination Committee may by two-thirds vote suspend a member for non-payment of fees. Such suspension will be removed upon payment of the outstanding fees.
- v) The Coordination Committee may by two-thirds vote suspend a member for actions detrimental to the objectives of the WFF, provided that the Coordination Committee allows the member reasonable opportunity for a hearing before any decision concerning a suspension is made.
- w) No suspended member may take part in the work of the WFF nor vote at the General Assembly.

Article 9: Expulsion (Agreed)

The Coordination Committee may by two-thirds vote expel a member for cause provided that:

- a) expulsion has been recommended by a two-thirds majority of the according regional council, if a regional council exists for that region.
- b) the Coordination Committee has given the member reasonable opportunity for a hearing into the actions giving rise to a consideration of expulsion.

STRUCTURE

Article 10: Forum Composition (Agreed)

The *World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF)* shall consist of:

- a) A General Assembly
- b) Regional Councils
- c) A Coordination Committee
- d) An Executive Committee

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 11: General Assembly (Agreed)

The General Assembly shall be composed of all of the delegates representing members who attend that meeting. The Coordination Committee may permit organizations that are not members to send observers to the General Assembly.

The General Assembly constitutes the highest authority of the *World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF)*.

Article 12: Functions of the General Assembly (Agreed)

The functions of the General Assembly are:

- a) to officially interpret and to amend the constitution of the WFF.
- b) to discuss issues of common interest and adopt resolutions on subjects on the agenda, and to do so in a spirit of cooperation and exchange of ideas.
- c) to decide on the action required to implement decisions and fulfill the objectives of the *World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF)*.
- d) to assign tasks or duties to the Coordination Committee.

Article 13: Member Representation at the General Assembly (Agreed)

- a) Each country with at least one active member shall be entitled to representation at the General Assembly by two delegates, one of whom shall be male and the other female.
- b) Large countries as designated by the Coordination Committee shall be entitled to a third delegate.
- c) Each active member shall be entitled to nominate auditors, and/or alternate delegates to participate at the General Assembly with the right to speak.
- d) The nomination of auditors and alternative delegates must be approved by the Coordination Committee.

Article 14: Designation of Delegates (Agreed)

- a) Active members shall name their delegates in writing to the Coordination Committee no less than 90 days before the General Assembly takes place.
- b) In the case of a country with more than one active member, the active members in the respective country shall try to agree on the delegates' representation. In the event that the active members in the respective country are unable to agree on the delegates' representation, they may refer the matter to the Coordination Committee for a binding decision.

Article 15: Right to Vote (Agreed)

Each delegate has the right to vote on any item put before the General Assembly.

Article 16: Majority (Agreed)

- a) Votes involving constitutional approval and amendments, suspension or expulsion of a member and the dissolution of the WFF, shall require two thirds majority vote of delegates voting and shall also require the support of 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 the vote, that country will be deemed to abstain from voting for the purpose of obtaining the simple majority expected.
- b) All other decisions at the General Assembly shall be made by simple majority (50% + 1) of the number of votes validly cast. However, we should first try to reach a consensus in our decision-making.

Article 17: Location of the General Assembly (Agreed)

Subject to any decision taken at a previous General Assembly, the General Assembly shall take place at a location to be fixed by the Coordination Committee.

Article 18: Frequency of the General Assembly (Agreed)

The General Assembly shall take place at least once every 3 years as decided by the Coordination Committee.

COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Article 19: Composition of the Coordination Committee (Not agreed)

The Committee shall be composed of a minimum of twelve (12) and a maximum of twenty-four (24) regional representatives, designated in the manner prescribed in Article 20 below.

(The composition of the Coordination Committee will depend on the final formulation of Article 20 below)

Article 20: Designation of Regional Representatives (Not agreed)

The representatives of the Coordination Committee shall be designated in the following manner, (following the principle of proportionate representation, but with a fixed minimum and maximum numbers):

- A minimum of two (2) and a maximum of four (4) [or ten (10)] representatives designated by the active members representing Asian countries;
- A minimum of two (2) and a maximum of four (4) [or ten (10)] representatives designated by the active members representing African countries;

- A minimum of two (2) and a maximum of four (4) representatives designated by the active members representing European countries;
- A minimum of two (2) and a maximum of four (4) representatives designated by the active members representing North American countries;
- A minimum of two (2) and a maximum of four (4) [or ten (10)] representatives designated by the active members representing South American countries;
- A minimum of two (2) and a maximum of four (4) representatives designated by the active members representing countries from Oceania and the South Pacific.

Article 20 a: Reservation in the Coordination Committee (Not agreed)

Any organization having 50,000 or more members shall have a reservation for one member in the Coordination Committee.

Article 20 b: Gender Parity in the Organization (Not agreed)

Members commit to maintaining gender parity in selecting representatives for the Coordination Committee. The representative designated by the members should be representative of one of the groups listed in subsections a) to d) of Article 3 of this constitution.

or:

(At every level of organization, there should be at least 50 % women's participation.)

Article 21: Officers of the Coordination Committee (Agreed)

The members of the Coordination Committee shall elect from among themselves one (1) general coordinator, one (1) assistant coordinator and any other officer deemed necessary in order to carry out their duties.

or:

(The officers of the Coordination Committee are: (1) the General Coordinator, (2) the Assistant Coordinator and (3) the Treasurer. These three officials are elected by the General Assembly)

or:

There shall be two coordinators and one treasurer.

or:

There shall be one general coordinator, two general secretaries and one treasurer.

Article 22: Functions of the Coordination Committee (Agreed)

The Coordination Committee acts under the authority of the General Assembly and represents the *World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF)*.

Other than the duties that may be delegated by the General Assembly, the functions of the Coordination Committee are as follows:

- a) Promote the creation of regional councils.
- b) Plan and manage the activities of the *World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF)*.
- c) Organize the General Assembly.
- d) Propose recommendations to be put to the General Assembly.
- e) Implement measures decided upon by the General Assembly.
- f) Represent the *World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF)* in dealings with other organizations.
- g) Admit members in accordance with the provisions of this constitution.
- h) Report on its activities to the General Assembly.
- i) Maintain close links among members of the *World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF)* during periods when the General Assembly is not in session.
- j) Generally, take any measures deemed necessary to accomplish the objectives set out in this constitution.

Article 23: Term of Office of Coordination Committee Members (Agreed)

The mandate of Coordination Committee members shall be for the period until the next General Assembly. Normally the mandate will be for a term of three (3) years.

Article 24: Vacancies of Coordination Committee Members (Agreed)

- a) If an active member files a written complaint that a member of the Coordination Committee is no longer acting in accordance with the objectives of the World Forum, this matter will be referred to the appropriate regional council. If, upon hearing the representations of the complainant and of the member of the Coordination Committee complained about, the Regional Council determines that the member of the Coordination Committee is no longer acting in accordance with the objectives of the World Forum, the Regional Council shall have the authority to remove that person from the Coordination Committee. This decision may be appealed to the Coordination Committee.

If no regional council exists in the region in which the complaint originates, the matter shall be referred to the Coordination Committee for a decision.

- b) If an active member notifies the Coordination Committee that a member of the Coordination Committee no longer holds the position that provided the political base for his or her election to the Coordination Committee, this matter will be referred to the appropriate regional council. If the Regional Council determines that this notification is valid, the Regional Council shall be authorized to declare this position vacant.

If no regional council exists in the region in which the notification originates, the matter shall be referred to the Coordination Committee for a decision.

Article 25: Vote (Agreed)

Each member of the Coordination Committee has the right to one (1) vote. Decisions shall be taken by simple majority.

Article 26: Procedures (Not agreed)

The Coordination Committee shall establish its own rules, decide on its own procedures and determine how often to meet. A special meeting shall be held any time that eight (8) members of the Coordination Committee so request in writing.

or:

(The Coordination Committee shall establish its own rules, decide on its own procedures and determine how often to meet. The General Coordinator should convene a special meeting any time when a two thirds of the Coordination Committee so request in writing.)

Article 26a: Functions of the General Coordinator (Not agreed)

- a) to preside over the General Assembly, the Coordination Committee and the Executive Committee;
- b) to convene the Coordination Committee and the Executive Committee;
- c) to maintain an office of communication, animation and documentation;
- d) to coordinate the WFF activities according to the decisions of the objectives of the WFF and the decisions of the General Assembly, the Coordination Committee and the Executive Committee;
- e) to facilitate new membership to the WFF;
- f) to represent the WFF at international fora and to delegate others to do so;
- g) generally, to take any measures deemed necessary to accomplish the objectives set out in this Constitution, to be reported to and to be ratified by the Coordination Committee.

Article 26 b: Term of Office of the General Coordinator (Not agreed)

The General Coordinator is elected for a period of three (3) years.

Article 26 c: Functions of the Assistant Coordinator (Not agreed)

- a) to work in close collaboration with the General Coordinator;
- b) to assume the functions of the General Coordinator in his absence.

Article 26 d: Term of office of the Assistant Coordinator (Not agreed)

The Assistant Coordinator is elected for a period of three (3) years.

Article 26 e: Functions of the Treasurer (Not agreed)

- a) to handle all financial matters of the WFF;
- b) to act according to the decision of the Coordination Committee and the Executive Committee;
- c) to spend money as per written instructions from the General Coordinator and the Assistant Coordinator collectively;
- d) to have the accounts of the WFF audited every year.

Article 26 f: Term of office of the Treasurer (Not agreed)

The Treasurer is elected for a period of three (3) years.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Article 27: Composition of the Executive Committee (Not agreed)

The executive committee shall be composed of five (5) representatives elected from among the members of the Coordination Committee.

or:

(The executive Committee shall be composed of the General Coordinator, the Assistant Coordinator and the Treasurer, for the day-to-day running of the WFF.)

Article 28: Officers of the Executive Committee (Not agreed)

There shall be one (1) president, two (2) vice-presidents, one (1) secretary and one (1) treasurer.

or:

(if the second alternative is chosen for Article 27, this article may be omitted)

Article 29: Functions of the Executive Committee (Not agreed)

The Executive Committee acts under the authority of the Coordination Committee and is responsible to the latter.

The Executive Committee handles all administrative and financial matters. This includes:

- a) Handling the day-to-day administration of affairs and dealing with all financial and purely administrative aspects of the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF).
- b) Preparing and managing an operating budget.
- c) Preparing all reports and financial statements that may be required by the Coordination Committee.
- d) Assisting the Coordination Committee with all administrative and financial matters and carrying out any related duties which may be delegated to it by the Coordination Committee.

Article 30: Term of Office of Executive Committee Members (Not agreed)

The mandate of Executive Committee members shall be for a (maximum) term of three (3) years.

Article 31: Vacancies of Executive Committee Members (Not agreed)

Any vacancy arising within the Executive Committee for any reason shall be filled by the Coordination Committee.

Article 32: Meetings (Not agreed)

Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the President or the Secretary, and may be held without notice, at a time and a place to be determined by the aforementioned.

or:

(Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the General Coordinator, by the Assistant Coordinator or by the Treasurer.)

Article 33: Quorum (Not agreed)

A quorum for meetings of the Executive Committee shall be three (3) members.

or:

[(if the second alternative for Article 27 is chosen) The quorum for the meeting of the Executive Committee will be all the three members.]

Article 34: Procedures (Not agreed)

Procedures for meetings of the Executive Committee shall be determined by regulation of the Coordination Committee.

REGIONAL COUNCILS

Article 35: Establishment of Regional Councils (Not agreed)

The World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF) shall recognize any regional council of the World Forum which complies with the objectives described in Article 2 and which is formed by the regions and continents listed in Article 20 of this constitution.

Article 36: Goals of Regional Councils (Not agreed)

The goals of the regional councils shall be to ensure the coordination and the consultation of regional members from countries representing the regions and continents listed in Article 20 of this constitution.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 37: Financing (Agreed)

Revenues for the WFF shall derive from the following:

- membership fees;
- donations or grants deemed acceptable by the Coordination Committee;

- any other source deemed acceptable by the Coordination Committee.

Article 38: Modifications and Amendments

This Constitution may be modified or amended by a vote. The voting procedure is as follows:

Votes involving constitutional approval and amendments, suspension or expulsion of a member and the dissolution of the WFF shall require two-thirds majority vote of delegates voting and shall also require the support of 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 a vote, that country will be deemed to abstain for the purpose of obtaining the simple majority expected.

All other decisions at the General Assembly shall be taken by a simple majority (50% + 1) of the number of votes validly cast. However, we should try to reach a consensus in our decision making.

Article 39: Dissolution

The *World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers* may be dissolved by a vote. The voting procedure is as follows:

Votes involving constitutional approval and amendments, suspension or expulsion of a member and the dissolution of the WFF shall require two-thirds majority vote of delegates voting and shall also require the support of 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 a vote, that country will be deemed to abstain for the purpose of obtaining the simple majority expected.

All other decisions at the General Assembly shall be taken by a simple majority (50% + 1) of the number of votes validly cast. However, we should try to reach a consensus in our decision making.

Article 40: Offices (Agreed)

The offices of the *World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF)* shall be located as determined from time to time by the Coordination Committee.

Article 41: Official Languages (Agreed)

The official languages of the *World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF)* shall be English, French and Spanish.

Article 42: Interpretation (Agreed)

When the General Assembly is not in session, only the Coordination Committee has authority in matters concerning the interpretation of this constitution.

Article 43: Status (Agreed)

The *World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF)* is an independent organization.

By authority of the General Assembly, the Coordination Committee may undertake any measures deemed necessary to confer on the *World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF)* a judicial personality in accordance with the applicable laws of a country in which the *World Forum* carries out its activities.

Article 44: Coming into Force (Agreed)

This constitution shall come into force following its approval at a General Assembly in accordance with the provisions contained herein. Upon such approval, this constitution shall replace the WFF interim charter of 1997.

APPENDIX 2

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

APPENDIX 3

AN APPEAL TO THE FISHERY *MANAGERS OF THE UNITED STATES*

PLEASE STOP SQUANDERING FISHERY RESOURCES THROUGH REGULATORY IMPOSED DISCARDS AND HALT THE DISPLACEMENT OF SMALL-SCALE FISHERMEN AND WOMEN UTILIZING SUSTAINABLE FISHING PRACTISES

1. In many areas of the world including the United States fish stocks have collapsed or are on the verge of collapse. The FAO has expressed concern that in the future there will be insufficient food supplies including fish to feed the people of the world. Every day there are people who go hungry in the United States and in other countries. The quota systems used in the united states to regulate fisheries continue to cause the unwarranted wasting of valuable food resources through discards of fish.
2. Through out the world artisanal fisheries are threatened by over capitalization and industrial fishing. In the United States small - scale family fishermen and women formerly numbering in the thousands, successfully harvest quality sea food products using sustainable methods without causing undue damage to fish habitats or stocks. These family fishermen and women are now disappearing from the coastal communities.
3. Present fishery regulations, often developed based on the historic catch of various segments of the fleet are imposed with little or no regard to their effect on family fishermen and women or coastal communities. Fishermen using gear which destroys the habitat and create waste though by catch and discards are allowed to continue fishing. Small-scale fishermen and women using selective fishing methods are being regulated out of existence.
4. Fishery regulations must take into consideration small-scale fishermen and women, to protect them, their coastal communities and the fish resources. Policies should reflect the enhancement of fisheries, and should not be at the expense of small-scale fishermen and women. If quota systems continues to be used, they should, to the greatest extent possible, guarantee a sufficient quota to sustain the lively hood of small-scale fishermen and women who utilize harvest methods resulting in little or no catch.
5. Non-selective gears and fishing methods must be monitored to properly take into account the effects of discards on the existing fish stocks. Until those actual effects are determined, such fisheries should not be allowed to continue at the expense of the small-scale, sustainable family fishermen and women or the fish stocks.

6. In the case of fisheries involving stocks of concern, non-selective fisheries should in no event, have quotas that exceed quotas allocated to selective fisheries, especially when the non-selective fisheries are targeting stocks other than stocks of concern.
7. In all cases, fish stocks should be conserved, protected, and reserved for human consumption only.

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

WORLD FORUM OF FISH HARVESTERS AND FISH WORKERS

Signed by:

Thomas Xavier Kocherry, General Coordinator
World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers
INDIA

Francois Poulin, Assistant Coordinator
World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers
Canadian Council of Professional Fish Harvesters
Alliance des Pêcheurs Professionnels du Quebec
CANADA

Andre Le Berre, Treasurer
World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers
French National Association of Artisanal Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers
Comite local des Peches Maritimes du Guilvinec
FRANCE

Harekrishna Debnath
National Fishworkers Forum
INDIA

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

Earle McCurdy
Canadian Council of Professional Fish Harvesters
Fish Food and Allied Workers
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SENEGAL

Arthur Bogason
National Association of Small Boat Owners,
ICELAND

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

Daniel Lefevre
Comité Régional des Pêches de Basse Normandie
Comite Local des Pêches Maritimes de Cherbourg
FRANCE

Dominique Saux- Galliano
Pêche et Developpement, Colletif
FRANCE

John Sutcliffe
United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union
CANADA

Daniel Bernier
Canadian Council of Professional Fish Harvesters
CANADA

APPENDIX 4

STATEMENTS OF ACCOUNTS

WFF ACCOUNT

DRAFT (1US\$ = 1.05 Euro today)

INCOMES

FEEs:	2 513,77 Euro	2394,00 US\$
	(see attached 1)	
FOUNDERS	22 164,04 Euro	21 108,61 US\$
	(see attached 1)	
OTHERS	none	
	(see attached 1)	

TOTAL INCOME 25 760,20 Euro 23 581,14 US\$

EXPENSES

REIMBURSEMENT None

BANK FEES

on incomes	82,39 Euro	78,47 US \$
on reimburs.	none	

TOTAL EXPENSES 82,39 Euro 78,47 US\$

BALANCE 24 677,81 Euro 23, 502,68 US\$

	Membres du Forum	1998-99	EURO	Frais ban.	Net euro	Net FF
Bangladesh	Bangladesh Jele Federabon					
Belgique	Entre-aide et Fraternité	150,000 fb	3713,86	15,63 fb	3698,23	24258,81
Canada	Développement et Paix	30,000 cnd	18450,18	15,63	18434,55	120922,74
Canada	Conseil Canadien Pêch. Prof.	500 US\$	437,7	4,57	433,13	2841,15
Chile	Conapach					
France	Branche française du forum	500 US\$	450,49	0	450,49	2955
Iceland	Landsamband Smabataeigende	500 US\$	451,93?	?	451,93	2964,47
India	National Fishworkers Forum	500 US\$	480,98	8,89	472,09	3096,71
Malaisie	Penang Inshore Fishermen's W					
Mexique	Sector Pescero Vaso presa					
Mexique	Red National de Percadores					
Nlle zelande	Rongomalwasine Trust Inc.					
Norway	Norges Kistfiskadag					
Paquistan	All Pakistan Fisherfolk Fédér.					
Paquistan	Fishing Community Network					
Perou	Fed.Integraclony Unif.Pes					
Philippines	Bigkis-lakas Phil.Inc.					
Sénégal	Coll.Nat.Pêch.Artsans Sénégal	500 US\$	437,7	4,57	433,13	2841,15
South Africa	Informal Fishing Communités					
Sri Lanka	United Federabon of Labour					
Sri Lanka	National Fisheries Solida@					
Sri Lanka	Women Development Federabon					
UK	South Devon Cannel Shell Fish.	160 £	241,16	31,32	209,84	1376,49
USA	Pacife Coast Fed.Fishermen's...					
USA	Gloucester Fishermen's Ass.	100 \$	96,2	1,78	94,42	619,35
CMB	intérêts, 1999				49,31	323,44
	total		24780,20	82,39	24677,81	18186,87
	30-10-99	Solde		24 677,81		

