



**ACTS
OF
THE WORLD FORUM OF
FISH-HARVESTERS AND
FISH-WORKERS
(WFF) MEET IN DELHI,
INDIA FROM 17-21
NOVEMBER 1997.**



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Foreword

I am very happy to send you the ACTS of the World Forum of Fish-harvesters and Fishworkers (WFF) meet in Delhi from 17-21 November 1997. This is compiled by Anindita Chakrabarti, Aparna Sundar, Ashok Sharma & M.R. Prakash. It was a very time consuming effort. There may be a lot of short comings. I am sure you will excuse them. In the name of all of you, I thank each one of them.

This is a historic document. This should reach each+every fish-harvester and fish-worker in the world. This should be translated into the language of the people. When you do this, please send me a copy of the same to the WFF office in Thiruvananthapuram, India.

From now on we have to keep communication channel open to each and every one of us. In order to make the WFF office effective, the NFF is installing the best communication instruments at the office. The WFF office will be open 24 hours. There will be telephone, fax, email and internet available 24 hours. It is up to each one of you to use this office as your own. Please send the news regularly to the WFF office. In turn, we will be sending the news from all over the world back to you.

Once again I thank each one of you for your participation and collaboration in the WFF meet in Delhi.

Thomas Kocherry
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World Forum of Fish-harvesters and Fish-workers (WFF)
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Date: 20th December 1997.

Fisheries development cannot be measured solely by the level of production but, rather, fishing practices must be sustainable and ultimately oriented towards protecting the livelihood of coastal fishing communities. Small-scale, community based fishers, who are not just economically, but also socially and culturally, dependent on the fishery, are the best equipped to harvest it sustainably.

The global nature of the exploitation of workers and the threat to sustainability requires political organization at the international level to propose alternatives that would defend small-scale fishers' livelihoods and ways of life. As a step towards this, the delegates to the Quebec meeting agreed to convene an international meeting of fish harvesters and fishworkers organizations in New Delhi in 1997.

Objectives of the World Forum

1. To continue the discussion on sustainable fishing among fish harvester and fishworkers organizations that begun in Quebec City.
2. To work towards the formulation of a resource management regime that incorporates the common property rights of coastal communities to the coastal sea and its resources.
3. To work to halt the world wide depletion of fish stocks by industrial fleets.
4. To develop a world wide solidarity organization of fish harvesters and fishworkers as a natural corollary to the globalization of exploitation, in order to propose alternatives that would preserve and nurture the fish resources and the fishing communities that depend on them for their livelihood.

Organizing Committee

The Forum is being hosted by the National Fishworkers Forum (N.F.F.) of India. The Canadian Council of Professional Fish-harvesters(CCPFH) is responsible for the coordination of logistics for the event. These two organizations, both of which are the national federations in their respective countries, now constitute the organizing committee for the World Forum of Fish-harvesters and Fishworkers. The organizing work of the committee is supported by the contact people within key fish-harvesters and fishworkers organization in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Invitees

Delegates are being invited from fishery organizations that are membership based and seek to broadly represent fish harvesters and workers in their countries i.e, they are not limited to specific fleets or narrow interests (e.g. species groups or gear types). Among small-scale fish harvester organizations, only those that adhere to the objectives of professional fish harvester i.e. that they are organizations of owner operators, are being invited. Every effort is being made to ensure the strong representation of women from fisheries organizations and coastal communities, which may include women from coastal community organizations even where they are not members of formal fish harvester and fishworkers organizations.

Invitations to serve as observers and resource persons are being extended to selected fishery support and community development NGOs, trade unions, environmental organizations, scientific and research organizations, and individuals.

Please find enclosed for your information the list of invitees.

Funding

It was estimated that a total of US\$ 125,000 would be required to cover the costs of the Forum. Contributions totalling US\$ 55,000 have been obtained from the following sources:

Fondation Leopold Mayer, France US\$ 34,000

Government of Quebec, Canada US\$ 14,000

Canadian Auto Workers, CAW US\$ 7,000

As well, South Asia Partnership, Canada, has agreed to sponsor the travel of two participants from South Asia to India, and the CAW has contributed an additional \$ 3,000 to enable two of its representatives to attend the Forum.

Since we are still short of close to half of the estimated budget, we would appreciate it if you could suggest we may apply to.

INVITATION LIST

ASIA

BANGLADESH DELEGATES

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INDIA DELEGATES

1. Mr P. C Appa Rao
A.P. Mechanized-
Boat Operators' Association.
Fishing Harbour ,
Vishakhapattanam-530001
Andhra Pradesh, India.
Tel: (0891)-66117(0), 65522(R)
2. Mr Tarun Kumar Patnaik
Orissa Maritime Fish-
Producers Association
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Observers/Resource Persons

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Speakers

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6. Mr. Nalini Nayak
Programme for Community
Organisation
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India
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Fax 91 -471 446859

PAKISTAN DELEGATES

1. Mr. Mohammad Saeed Baluch
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Passport #: C 392 394

2. Mr. Mohammad Ali Shah
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SRI LANKA DELEGATES

1. Mr Sarnapala De Silva,
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Tel: 324053, 430621; Fax 334822
Passport # : L 073 1611
2. Mr Lucas Fernando
Secretary General,
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2. Mr. Masaaki Sato,
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Philippines
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Fax: 63-2-522 1095
3. Mr Rodolfo C. Sambajon
President, Pamalakaya-Pilipinas
18-A, Mabuhay Street, Central District
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AFRICA Madagascar DELEGATES

1. Mr. Christian Nestro Velo
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Madagascar
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Namibia DELEGATES

1. Namibia Food and Allied Workers
Union,
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Namibia

**Senegal
DELEGATES**

1. CNPS(two representatives)
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**Sierra Leone
DELEGATES**

1. Mr. F.A Brima
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P.O Box 1333, Freetown,
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**SOUTH AFRICA
DELEGATES**

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Port Elizabeth,
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MONAPE**

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DELEGATES**

1. Mr Hugo Arancibia
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Chile.
Tel & Fax(56) 41-228500

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DELEGATES**

1. Mr Fredys- Villion Tores,
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DELEGATES**

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NORTH AMERICA

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1. Mr Zeke Grader
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1. Ms. Marie Desroches / Fishnet

CCPFH delegates

Observers/Resource Persons

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Obsaervers/Resource Persons

1. Mr. Jean - Michel Le Ry,
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Ireland DELEGATES

1. Mr. Donal O' Driscoll,
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DELEGATES**

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DELEGATES**

1. Mr. J.Gil Sousa Pilo,
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**United Kingdom
DELEGATES**

1. Mr. Robert Allan,
Chief Executive,
Scottish Fishermen's Federation,
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Aberdeen AB1 2DE,
UK.
2. Mr. John Goodland,
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Producers Organization Ltd.,
Shetland Seafood Centre,
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3. Mr. Chris Venmore,
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Torcross, Nr. Kingsbridge,
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Tel : 44-1548-580446

4. Mr. Barry Dees,
Chief Executive,
National Federation of
Fishermen's Organizations,
Marsden Road Fish Docks,
Grimsby,
UK.

Observers/Resource Persons

1. Mr. Brian O'Riordan,
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Belgium

Observers / Resource Persons

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New Zealand

Observers / Resource Persons

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**Italy
Speakers**

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Observers Resource Persons

1. Mr. James Smith
ITF
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Observers/Resource Persons

1. Ms Beatrice Gorez,
Coalition for Fair Fisheries
Agreements

Speakers

1. Mr. Peter Weber

The invitation letters sent out by the National Fishworkers' Forum from September 1997 onwards, is the following--

Dear

The National Fishworkers' Forum(N.F.F), India, feels privileged to invite you to the Meet of the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers(W.F.F). The meet will be held at the Indian Social Institute(I.S.I), 10 Lodhi Road(Near Sai Baba Mandir,) New Delhi-110003. (Tel 91-11-4694602/4699289). You are requested to arrive in Delhi on 16th November and leave by 22nd of November 1997. The N.F.F will take care of the boarding and lodging of the delegates. But kindly note that, the national law does not permit NFF to handle any foreign currency. Therefore, if you need any Indian currency for your personal use, we request you to collect the exchange at the airport.

The purpose of this meet is to create a common platform for all the stake holders in Fisheries, to bring about conservation of fish resources and protect the fisher people.

A copy of this letter is given to the External Affairs Ministry of the Government of India to facilitate you to obtain a visa at the Indian embassy in your country.

Thanking you and looking forward to meeting you.

Yours sincerely,

Date September 29 1997

Place : Delhi

The list of Participants sent to the New Delhi Secretariat from CCPFH on the 26th of September 1997.

Confirmed Participants List to whom formal invitation letter was sent for visa purposes.

Sri Lanka

Delegates/ Delegates

1. Mr. Saranapala de Silva,
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(Fishworker's Union),
No. 17, Barracks Lane,
Colombo 02,
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Tel. : 324053, 430621; Fax. 334822
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2. Mr. Lucas Fernando,
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Madagascar

Delegates/ Delegates

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Lot IVE 101 Soarano,
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Namibian

Delegates

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Fax. 264 61 263714
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Expires: 17.02.02

South Africa

Delegates

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Observers

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**Argentina
Delegates**

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10. Sr. Oscar Pablo Ortie
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Maritimos Unidos,
Peru 1667, Buenos Aires,
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Observers

11. Sr. Jose Maria Casas
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Chile**Delegates**

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Valparaiso,
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Observers

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Mexico**Delegates**

15. Silvia Gonzalez Sanchez
Red Nacional de Pescadores
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Peru

Delegates

16. Sr. Claudio Nizama Silva
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Observers

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United States

Delegates

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Expires: 09.10.2006
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USA
Passport #: 155050622

Speaker

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Canada

Delegates

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Speaker

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**France
Delegates**

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25. M. Daniel Lefevre,
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Greece

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**Portugal
Delegates**

31. Sr. Joaquim G.S. Pilo,
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Tel./Fax: 351 1 301 5000
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Delegates/ Delegates

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Between 26th September 1997 and 16th November 1997, 46 more names of participants came from the CCPFH. There a few changes Paulina Maherero of Namibia was replaced by Johan Hendricks Xenophon Gialvalis of Greece withdrew due to health reasons and John Goodlad could not participate due to financial constraints. Therefore in the final list there were 84 participants from outside India.

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PROGRAMME

Timings	17th Nov. 1997	18th Nov. 1997	19th Nov. 1997	20th Nov. 1997	21st Nov. 1997
			Delhi-Mumbai IC 186, Departure : 06.30 Mumbai-Delhi C 183, Departure : 20.30 (only delegates)		
07:45-09:00	Breakfast (at the basement of ISI Residence)				
09:30-11:00	Inaugural Session: Main Hall, Ground Floor, Room no. G-12 (Details on Page No. 2)	Language Groups: - Sharing of fisheries experiences - Issues arising from paper presentations English 1:301; English 2:308 English 3:408 French 3:311; Spanish : 406	The Drafting Committee prepares proposals and statements	Plenary: Co-Chairs: Thomas Kocherry and Daniel Bernier - Presentation of draft proposals and statements by the drafting committee. - Presentation of Action Plan and Constitution of WFF by the Organising Committee (Room No. 301)	Plenary: Co-Chairs: Thomas Kocherry and Daniel Bernier - Presentation of WFF account - The Proposals are made into decisions. - Resolutions on the proposals
11:00-11:15	Tea Break				
11:15-13:00	Plenary Session: Co-Chairs: Francois Pauline(FP) and Harekrishna Debnath (HD) - Self introduction - Formation of steering committee - Announcing drafting Committee and Reporters Quebec background: Introduction by F.P From Quebec to Delhi and dynamics: by Thomas Kocherry	Sharing: (Continues) - Drafting proposals	Screening of Films and Documentaries on Fisheries. (For those who remain in Delhi) (Room No. 313)	Language groups: - Discussion on the presentation made by Language groups. - workout proposals for final decision at the Plenary.	Plenary: (continues.)
13:00-14:00	Lunch				

16th Nov '97 - Arrival and Registration of delegates.

22nd Nov '97 - Departure to respective countries and places

14.00-16.00	Plenary Session : (Continues) - Paper presentation (Time: 15-20mts, 5mts clarification) - Industrial Fisheries and Resource depletion - <u>Peter Weber</u> - Natural Resource Management and Property Rights- <u>John Kurten</u> - The role of Woman in the fisheries- <u>Nalini Nayak</u>	Plenary : Co-Chairs: F.P. and H.D. Presentation of Workshop reports, clarification and discussion. (Room no. 301)			Language Groups : (Continues)		of the P by the Dra
16.00-16.15	Tea Break						- Press Conference at 15:30-16:00 (Hall 308)
16.15-18.00	- Industrial Treaties and Communities - <u>Roif Wilman</u> - Social impacts of Fisheries - <u>Parzival Copes</u> - Video Film - <u>Anand Patwardhan</u>	Plenary Discussion : (Continues)			Plenary : Co-Chairs: Thomas Kocherry and Daniel Bernier - Presentation of the Proposals from the Group Reports	Closing Session : Inauguration of the WFF : 17:00-17:30 (Please refer to details as for below) (Hall 301)	
18.00-19.00	Language Groups : English 1 : G 12 (Room Nos.) English 2 : 308 English 3 : 408 Spanish 4 : 311 French 5 : 406 - Preparations towards regional presentations on Fisheries.	Plenary Discussion : (Continues) - The Chair sums up with the help of the Drafting Committee			- Drafting Committee finalizes the drafting proposals for 21st Plenary session.		
19.45-20.45	Dinner						
20.45	Departure to different residences by vehicles						

INAUGURAL SESSION :

Welcome : Thomas Kocherry, India
Dance : by Mahatashiva Fishpeople
Co-Chair's Explanation : Harekrishna Deb Nath, India
Co-Chair's Explanation : Earle McCurdy, Canada
Inaugural Address : Honble Minister Indrajit Gupta, Minister of Home Affairs, Govt. of India.
Responses :
 1. Senior Humberto Malle(Coapach), Chile, 2. Mohammed Ali Shah, Pakistan, 3. Kiranmaya Handa, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, West Bengal 4. Danielle Le Sauze, France, 5. Therese Senghor, Senegal
Vote of Thanks : Christine Hunt, Canada

CLOSING SESSION

Welcome : Lucie Breaux, Canada
ance : by Advasis Cholanapur
Presentation of the Discussions of WFF: Co-Chairs and the newly elected general Coordinators of WFF
Inauguration of WFF: Honble Minister M.P. Virenda Kumar, Minister of Labour, Govt. of India
Responses :
 1. Angela Sanfilippo, USA, 2. Oscar Pablo Ortiz, Argentina, 3. Silvia Gonzalez Sanchez, Mexico, 4. Major Ziauddin, Bangladesh, 5. Arthur Bogason(Ice Land)
Vote of Thanks : Harekrishna Deb Nath, India

Report of 15-16 November 1997 :Arrival of the Participants

The Participants were received at the airport and station. The volunteers involved were Robin and the team of students. They were supported by Prakash and Prasad. The participants were taken to Indian Social Institute, Satvabhna, CRI , Aravalli Guest House, Delhi Forum, Other Media, Tourist Home and Marina Hotel. As and when the participants came in the files and the bags with programme and the papers were distributed to them by a team of volunteers, headed by Nalini Nayak. The halls were prepared by Xavier Pinto with the help of volunteers.

Report of 17th November Day 1 of the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers:

Inaugural Session : MC : Anindita Chakrabarti

The day commenced at 9.30 am with the song of the fishworkers "And we will keep fishing on", composed by Nalini Nayak.

And we will keep fishing on

we're fishers from around the world
United we will be
we have gathered from around the world
to protect our land and sea
we're fishers from around the world
United we will be
and we will go fishing on.

(CHORUS)

**Fishing, fishing in the open wide sea,
Fishing, fishing united we will be,
Fishing, fishing in the open wide sea
and united we will be.**

There are those who fish for profit
and are never satisfied
there are those who fish for profit
who have the power and might
There are those who fish for profit
And deprive us of our rights
But we will go fishing on

CHORUS:

There are many interests in the sea
Who claim priority
the giants, the greens, the MSC
Confuse the reality
But we who live by fishing
have the greatest stake of all
for we need to keep fishing on

CHORUS:

A code of conduct to observe
for sustainability
A code of conduct to observe
to conserve the land and sea
A code of conduct to observe
to build our unity
and we will keep fishing on

CHORUS:

This was followed by a ceremony where all those present placed a rose in a bowl near the dias to symbolise a coming together and a common purpose.

Welcome speech by Thomas Kocherry : We the fisherpeople of the world are very happy to create today this international body. The world Forum of Fish-harvesters and fish-workers was a dream of ours in Quebec City in 1995 when some of us met there to participate in the jubilee celebration of the FAO, where we decided to form an ad hoc committee to create this World Forum. We of the NFF have really enjoyed working with the CCPFH. It took three years of hard work to make this event a reality.

This body is different, organizationally and politically. It is not a trade union in the traditional sense, but a community based and resource based organization with the central aim of protecting the livelihood and resources of fishing communities around the world. Article 21 of the Indian constitution mandates this right to livelihood.

I welcome the leaders of our two organisations - Harekrishna Debnath, Chairperson of the NFF, and Earle McCurdy, President of the CCPFH. Their leadership and foresight has helped to create this organisation. The Honourable Union Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Indrajit Gupta, who has been a longstanding friend of the NFF. Our friends from the neighbouring countries of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, from where it is often most difficult to come. They were the first to get their visas, and this is no doubt due to help from the Home Ministry. I am very happy to welcome the Hon'ble Minister Shri to this function. Some of our leaders are on stage today - Humberto Mella of Chile, Mohammed Ali Shah of Pakistan. India and Pakistan are always cast as enemies, yet we were able to create friendship and solidarity, and to work together to get the Indian fishermen in Pakistani jails freed. I welcome both of them. I welcome Danielle Le Sauze of France, Therese Senghor of Senegal, and Christine Hunt of Canada, who represents not only Canada. (Christine Hunt then presented a gift from her community to Indrajit Gupta).

This is not a typical international meeting with five star accommodation, etc, but a simple one organised by fishers who are struggling to survive, and we will need to make adjustments and sacrifices.

This was followed by a dance by a troupe from the fishing community of Versova Maharashtra. This was organized by Motiram Bhawe and R.K Patil. The theme of the Dance was--The fishermen bring the fish which is beautiful. Paru who is taking this fish to sell is more beautiful. The bountiful Sea is the source of our life and we pray that we get plenty of fish. Sea is our Goddess, we worship her, before we begin the season of fishing.

Harekrishna Debnath, Chairperson, NFF : Today is a red letter day for fishworkers. For the first time in history leaders of fishers from around the world are gathered here. I thank each one of you for your whole - hearted response to the call given by the CCPFH / NFF.

But why did we call you to such a conference ? Friends, the answer lies in the fact that all around the world the fishing community has been marginalised. 75% of fisheries around the world is in a state of collapse due to factory trawlers, industrial fishing, industrial aquaculture and pollution. The livelihood and food security of fishing communities are at risk. This has taken on an epidemic

proportion with so-called globalisation. We have been the masters of the sea, nurturing it for ages.

But now this has been violated by profit mongering global interests. These must be tackled and opposed. But this cannot be done by isolated efforts, because if they are chased out of one area, they move on to find new pastures. So we have to make a collective effort to settle the score and re-establish our sovereignty over the seas. If we can catch the deadliest sharks, surely we can drive these demons from the sea.

The process initiated in Quebec City is reaching its natural conclusion. The CCPFH and NFF have worked together for two years to create a common programme and agenda around which to organise. We can show the way to others by establishing people's sovereignty and people's control over resources. As the sea is one despite national barriers, so the fishing communities around the world are one, despite our national and cultural differences. Let us stand shoulder to shoulder to protect life on earth, and our resources. Let not the greed of a few destroy it all. A hundred years ago, Swami Vivekananda said : " A new revolution will be born from the hamlets of the fishepeople and a new age will follow."

Speech by Honourable Minister of Home Affairs, Indrajit Gupta :

Dear Comrades and friends,

I am very happy to be here to address this August assembly. I have been asking myself why do you all come here from very far? There are many delegates from Canada, the USA, South America, Europe, Africa, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Why do you take this trouble? I understand you are small fisher people and fish workers. There must be some problems. There must be some crisis. What is it? I am trying to understand it. I am coming from a state where we eat a lot of fish. I do like it. From that point of view I am interested in your cause. What is it? In the 1990s, fishing reached the point of diminishing returns. Many fish populations have fallen to levels at which they can no longer recover without significant reductions in catches or moratorium on fishing.

There are simply too many boats catching too many fish. In India the catch per vessel in all the sectors and in all the coastal states is going down drastically. The first surge in numbers of fishing vessels occurred during the Industrial Revolution. This upswell tapered off during the two World Wars, but boomed again in the 1950s through to the 1970s. The world's fishing fleets doubled between 1970 and 1990, with around 1.2 million commercial vessels scouring the world's oceans today. There are 25000 huge factory fishing ships in the world. Roving fleets like this, depleted one fish population after the other, leaving small-scale fishers with emptier nets and catches so small that many of them have lost not only their jobs but an important source of food as well. More than 100 million people in developing countries are dependent on fisheries for their livelihoods. For most of them, fishing is a way of life, not just a source of income. FAO reports that fish provide 29 per cent of the total animal protein consumed by Asians, 19 per cent by Africans, and 8 per cent by Latin Americans. More than five million people of Southeast Asia drive their livelihoods from fishing, out of some 20 million fishers world wide. Traditionally, small-scale or artisanal fishers have provided fish for local consumption but as fish become more and more scarce and their value increases, they enter the global market and thus become

unaffordable for poor people. Fishers living on subsistence incomes will soon no longer be able to afford to fish to their families. Developed nations which have overfished their own waters have headed into the territorial waters of developing countries, clashing frequently with small-scale fishers. Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which entered into force in 1994, maritime countries can extend a 200 mile (320 kms) Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) seaward from their coastlines. Because of the EEZs, the vast majority of the ocean's remaining fish stocks fall under the jurisdiction of developing countries, many of which grant licences to foreign vessels to exploit marine resources in their waters. Most developing countries lack the means to police these zones. Thus, foreign vessels frequently fish illegally in EEZs. Even foreign vessels with licences are being excluded from the coastal waters by indigenous fishers who resent the taking of fish stocks by large trawlers and factory ships, which they claim are not only overfishing but depriving local people of the benefits of the catch. Volatile 'fish wars' are taking place all over the world. Between Canadian small fishermen and Spanish Industrial fleets, again Canadian small boats blocking the British Columbia Ferry over a dispute on Salmon, French small fisher people fighting against Spanish Industrial fleets, Senaglese fisher people fighting against Spanish and French Industrial fleets, Namibian small fisher people fighting against foreign Industrial fleets and above all our Indian fisher people 10 million of them stood together to rescind the policy of giving licences to the foreign Industrial fleets, all these are becoming very common today. Fish wars are by no means restricted to the developing countries; they have erupted among developed countries as well. In the North Atlantic, Norway's coast guard fired warning shots and slashed the nets of Icelandic trawlers fishing too close to an island in the Barents Sea over which Norway claims jurisdiction. The United States and Canada are locked in a dispute over fishing for Pacific salmon species that has no sign of resolution. Drastic declines in fish stocks in waters of the European Union (EU) have led fishers from these countries to cast their nets elsewhere, particularly in waters of African, Caribbean, and Pacific nations. Currently, more than 25 per cent of fish caught by the EU are caught outside its waters. In 1994, the EU spent more than one-third of its fisheries budget to subsidise access to foreign fisheries by the EU distant-water fleet.

What are the causes? The main cause of the world's fisheries crisis is chronic overfishing attempting to prop up an unsustainable industry. These huge 25000 factory fishing ships have depleted all the oceans in the world. Too many over efficient gears going after a limited resource in the sea. Overfishing has an enormous impact of fish populations themselves and on the maintenance of marine biological diversity and the health of marine ecosystems. Well-managed fisheries are therefore not only beneficial to those who would exploit them, but also to the ocean ecosystem on which they depend.

Another cause for the crisis is the wasteful fishing and bycatch. According to the FAO again this waste discard comes annually between 18 and 40 million metric tonnes. These dead ones otherwise would have grown and would have been caught by the small fisher people. It is waste of protein. Most bycatch goes undocumented and the magnitude of its impacts on marine life. Another reason is the destruction of marine habitats by the destructive gears like bottom trawling and dredging. Bottom trawls and shellfish dredges damage submerged habitats such as meadows, coral reefs and rocky outcrops, or stir up mud which suffocates small filter-feeding organisms. In addition to the physical damage inflicted to the seabed, these types of gear disturb and kill sea living beings. Another reason is the massive coastal pollution through polluting industries, oil spilling, sewage dumping etc. Fish populations also suffer from run-off of pollution from land, including fertilizers, pesticides, synthetic organic chemicals, untreated sewage and sediments.

Globalization in the world go hand in hand with peripheralization or marginalization. The majority of the labour force are getting marginalised and displaced. In the name of profit making human beings are bypassed. They have no value today. Only profit has value. All labour laws are violated. The sea and resources are destroyed. I am very happy to see that so many of you representing the small fisher people across the globe, the fish workers in the world, the marginalised and the peripheralised people of the world come. I am very happy to see that so many of you representing the small fisher people across the globe, the fish workers in the world, the marginalised and the peripheralised people of the world come together in India. Your solidarity is a must. Unless you stand together you cannot do anything Your solidarity is a historical necessity. Your World Forum probably be the first of this kind to challenge Globalization that marginalises people, that displace people. Moratorium on fishing is again only punishing the victims. Now the victims have come together in India. The victims from the North and South, victims from all the Continents are here to challenge the root cause of the problem. I congratulate you on your pioneering effort to manage the fish resources and to protect the resources and the fisherpeople. Your struggle to protect the livelihoods of millions of people is historic and it is the beginning of people taking control over the water bodies and the resources. It is very interesting to see that you have come together for a common cause cutting across caste, creed, religion, nation, faith and belief. Today we do not see this kind of move. Both the harvesters and the workers have come together. Yes, we need new interpretation of workers. You are a community based organization. The whole community is in peril, particularly coastal communities. The whole community has to fight and struggle for survival. I congratulate you on your heroic effort. Keep it up.

The life of the planet and the dependent health and welfare of humanity must not be sacrificed to the greed of the few. I am very happy to inaugurate this world meet of Fish harvesters and Fish workers.

Thank you,

Earle McCurdy, President, CCPFH : Honourable Minister, brothers and sisters of the sea, it is honour to be here in this complex and beautiful country amongst people from both developed and developing countries who have in common their work in the fishery. I thank the dancers from Maharashtra who showed once again how the fishery is part of our culture, and that culture is part of our history. The fishery is our livelihood, but also the basis on which we feed a hungry world. So it is our responsibility to be continue to be able to feed the world. It is also part of our cultural heritage. Our challenge here, and what solidarity is all about, is not to allow work with them. As a wise person has said -the ties that bind us set us free. Throughout these workshops, we must work at this.

Let us set realistic and attainable objectives so that we can move forward and pass on our achievements to our communities for their future. This is a tough challenge. There are many who believe that the basis is instead global solidarity and cooperation. May people look back on this event as laying down that basis.

Responses from leaders

Humberto Mella, CONAPACH, Chile

It is a great honour for me to represent National Confederation of Chilean Fishworkers (CONAPACH) at this meeting. We come from the ends of the earth on the opposite side of the World, but we share the same hopes and fears, and feel entitled to the same rights to improve our quality of life at a time when the market and its forces seem to be replacing compassion.

I come from a country and continent where we are struggling under government policies which treat workers as a source of cheap labour, which does not acknowledge the depletion of resources, which encourages the invasion of foreign fleets, and which regards marine resources as a means of generating short term foreign exchange whilst ignoring the plight of the thousands of men and women from the fishing communities who are hoping for a better future. Current exploitation patterns are not sustainable economically, socially or ecologically: development does not mean more intensive exploitation of resources.

In Cebu and in Canada we learned that we must establish a strong platform to make our voices heard in all parts of the world. A new, more just and sustainable society in fisheries must be established.

The Canadian Council of Professional Fish Harvesters and National Fishworkers Forum in India have done some invaluable work in organising this meeting. There can be no better outcome than our organisations unite to protect the space, both on land and at sea for women and men of the artisanal fishing communities. Let's go forward with all our strength, and let the magic of the sea inspire us!

Mohammed Ali shah, Pakistan : As representative of fish harvesters and fishworkers of Pakistan, I bring to my friends greetings. I'm sure this august crowd of fish harvesters and fishworkers will deliberate and find solutions to problems of fishing communities everywhere. We would like to send a very clear message to the world that there will be a new a sunrise in the dark life of fisher people.

Danielle Le Sauze, Coastal Women of Brittany, France : I speak on behalf of the French delegation. I am sure we will go beyond our differences and keep in mind our common interests. A lot of work has to be done in these five days to build the basis for a sustainable future in the fishery.

Therese Senghor, CNPS, Senegal : On behalf of the families of the fisherfolk of Senegal I greet all the families of fisherpeople everywhere. We are several thousand women in the fishing community in Senegal, and we are very active in the fishery. It is not enough to speak, we have to find solutions. So my message is : fisherwomen of the world, let us work together.

Vote of Thanks - Christine Hunt, Native Brotherhood of British Columbia, CCPFH : My first duty is to thank the creator for delivering us all safely here. The name of my tribe - the Kwatikul means "Smoke of the World" and my native name means " a person who delivers the world all over the world". Last year I acquired a new name and a new dance in a ceremony, and my new name means " Warrior woman". We are called the "Salmon People" and fish is part of our culture and symbolism.

I am honoured on your behalf to thank the organisers of the conference who have spent hundreds of hours working on it. Especially Thomas Kocherry who travelled so tirelessly on its from all over. I want to explain my use of the word " fishermen". In Canada women who fish are called

fishers, but I don't mind being called a fishermen as I work as hard as any man on the boat. I have brought three books to present to Thomas Kocherry.

Tea break at 11.45.

Plenary, Chairs: Herekrishna Debnath and Earle McCurdy.

Announcement: Tickets to Bombay to be reconfirmed

Thomas Kocherry announces a proposal from the organising committee (consisting of Harekrishna Debnath, Thomas Kocherry, Francois Poulin and Earle McCurdy), a steering committee be formed consisting of the organising committee and one person from each of the five continents. The purpose of the steering committee would be to guide the entire process for the remaining days. The following people were nominated :

Steering Committee

Latin America : Silvia Gonzalez Sanchez, Mexico

Africa : Dao Gaye, Senegal

North America : Pietro Parravano, USA

Asia : Charles Caprichio, Philippines

Europe : Arthur Bogason, Iceland.

Francois Poulin , Canada

Earl McCurdy, Canada

Thomas Kocherry, India

Harekrishna Debnath, India

The drafting committee consists of :

Satish Babu

Francois Poulin

John Sutcliffe

Aparna Sundar

Gastien Godin

The rapporteurs:

Brian O' Riordan

V. Vivekanandan

J.B. Rajan

Beatriz Gorez

James Smith

Aparna Sundar

Francois Poulin : Background to the Quebec City Statement : Today there are present fishers

representatives from 33 countries. At the FAO 50th year commemoration in Quebec City in October 1995, no representatives of fishers were to be present. So the CCPFH intervened to invite fishers' organisations from five countries. After a few hours together there, we discovered that we had many problems in common. So we agreed on the need for an international network of some kind. The large fishery corporations are already organised at the world level, so we too need to organise to counteract this internationally. One of the main conclusions we reached in Quebec City was that our coastal communities are gravely endangered because of the industrial fishery. So if we want to survive, we must attack this kind of fishery directly.

Thomas Kocherry : From Quebec City to Delhi : After the Quebec meeting three NFF members went to Canada to plan how to follow this up. They planned to invite 50 delegates, including Indians, to the Forum, besides resource persons. It was agreed that some would have to pay their own fare and those who couldn't afford to, would be subsidised through international trade union and other funding. The invitations and objectives were drafted and then the question was raised : when the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers exists, what need is there for another international organisation ? This led us to clarify the nature of our organisation - that the WFF would be mass or community based.

Once the Process got underway, there was more and more spontaneous interest. I saw it is the spontaneous acclamation and affirmation of the coastal communities of the US and Canada, struggling to survive against industrial fishing etc. These issues were being raised there by fishers organisations. In Boston, Senator Kennedy asked for a ban on industrial trawling and even introduced a private members bill in Senate to that effect. Now there are 112 delegates and observers. We have received support from international trade unions also. But the greatest support has been from the fisher people and their friends. We are determined to go ahead to sustain the fish resources and our fishing communities.

Keynote papers.

John Kurien : Prefaced his prepared paper with some introductory remarks : The process of organising in the fishing communities culminated in the international meeting and formation of the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers in 1984. This is now a culmination at an even higher level. The common thread through these years has been the assertion of the fishworkers' birthright to the sea, expressed in phrases such as "masters of the sea", "Children of the sea", in Chile, Hemerto Chamorro has talked of them as "beacons of the sea". The land divides us but the oceans are one continuous aquatic milieu and unites us. Everywhere the issues facing fishing communities seem to be the same and this is perhaps because the relationship between the people and nature is the same everywhere in this sector.

In the paper he talks about the close interaction between successful management of natural resources and the regime of property rights pertaining to them. Given other factors such as technology, markets, and the knowledge base, the clearer the definition of rights, the greater the scope for sustainable harvest of the natural resources. But this calls for a clarification of terminology as well as a good amount of tightrope walking. Explaining the character of marine resources and the evolution of rights in this context, the author puts forward a different framework to integrate resource management and property rights. Analysing the issue at the macro, mezzo and micro levels the author points out that the resources in the territorial sea or

over the continental shelf upto a depth of 200m should be managed under a common property resource regime with the coastal fishworkers as the co-owner of the fishery resources. Through various examples he shows that to privatise such resources within the framework of a private property regime will only go to deprive vast masses of people of their rights to livelihood in an economic and social-cultural sense. Finally, the author concludes by saying that if our concerns about natural resources management in general and the fishery resources in particular must move beyond the realms of economic efficiency considerations alone and delve into the domain of social equity and sustainability as well, we need to think aloud about several alternatives.

Concluded by posing certain questions to the Forum :

1. If the territorial waters become the common property of the fish-harvesters they will be greatly empowered. What other concrete legal, techno-economic and social issues need to be addressed to ensure that this control over participatory, self-reliant and sustainable fisheries development process?
2. Is co-management of the coastal waters by state and fishing community a viable and feasible proposition?
3. What initiatives need to be taken by fishworkers to influence their governments to foster greater regional co-operation for effective management of fishery resources, as well as safety of fishworkers across EEZ's?
4. How can fish-harvesters and fishworkers unite globally to create the conditions for "common heritage of humankind regime" for managing the living resources of the world's aquatic terrain?

Paper by Peter Weber: Global Fishery Trend and their implications for Fishing Communities : The paper centres around the paradoxical situation of the fishing industry where there is limited stocks and excessive fishing capacity. Caught in this paradox are the fishing communities that have long relied on fishing as source of food and income. While the fishing industry accounts for only a fraction of global economic activity, fishing is the mainstay of employment and income for coastal and island people. Worldwide it is estimated that 120 million people are employed in fishery-related activities, of which 15-20 million people are actually fishing. Most of these jobs are in the small-scale fishing sector. For communities that rely on locally caught fish, reduction in food security is due to decreased fishing opportunities for local fish harvesters and also due to cut in the community's purchasing power to buy or trade for food from outside sources. Therefore, to minimize the negative social, cultural and economic fall-out from the imbalances in world fisheries today, fishery policy will need to be recast with the limits of fisheries in mind. The goals of stable production, economic security, and food security for fishing community should replace the goals of maximum production and maximum economic yield. Finally the author points out after surveying the global trends in the world fisheries that a situation marked by limited stocks, overcapacity, environmental degradation, expansion of aquaculture, increased exports from developing to the first world countries is negatively affecting all fishing communities. To remain economically and culturally sound, fishing communities will have to organize to protect their rights to their fisheries, as well as to insure effective management systems to protect the productivity of their fisheries.

Rolf Willman: International Instruments on Fisheries and of Relevance to Fisheries: A

Selected Overview

The paper brings to the fore an important development in the recent decade--the emergence of international conventions of binding nature, voluntary codes of conduct and guidelines and programmes of action for implementation by states, inter-governmental organizations and private sector and non-governmental organizations. The reasons behind this development are the following--

- i) the need to manage so-called 'global commons', i.e.. natural resources which are used in common by many or all countries,
- ii) the increasing economic relationship between countries requiring agreements on tariffs and non-tariff measures in international trade,
- iii) the emergence of an international civil society demanding the protection of human rights and standards of behaviour by states and other organizations (e.g. human rights and labour standards, safety standards on board of fishing vessels etc.).

The author does a chronological survey of the origins and negotiation process of the most important international fisheries agreements. He analyzes the provisions of the following conventions. The 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982 Convention), The Rio Declaration and Agenda 21, The 1995 Agreement on the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UN Fish Stocks Agreement), The Code of Conduct of Responsible Fisheries, The Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, The International labour standards and human rights, The International agreements on maritime safety and marine pollution.

In Conclusion, he sums up by pointing out that significant progress has been made during the last half century in international legal instruments and voluntary codes and guidelines to protect people's basic human rights and their living and working conditions and conserve the environment. But ultimately these legal instruments are effective only when they are enforced. This enforcement will be furthered by people becoming aware of the contents of these agreements and acting on it individually and in associations.

Paper by Nalini Nayak: Whither Life and Livelihood

The paper centres around questions of sustainability and role of women in fisheries. A slogan such as ? Without Women in Fisheries No fish in the Sea is meaningless when women are confined to their homes or work as wage earners in processing plants. But, in developing a critique of technology the role of man to nature and the division of labour between the genders have to be taken in to account. In artisanal fishing communities the entire family would have their specific tasks in the fishery and there would be complementary division between men and women. But this condition where the fishing would go along with nurturing of the Sea was destroyed by exploitive trade practices, increased fishing effort, over-efficient gears. The false conception which reigned supreme was that production could be increased indefinitely and that the maximization of profit is the main objective. In this transformation process, there were changes in the community life and the division of labour between men and women. Under the new conditions women lost access to fish for sale and were turned into wage labour. This loss of access of means of livelihood affected the very socio-economic world of the fishworkers. But women responded through various forms of protests. They organized themselves as wives of fishermen to demand the protection of the work of their husbands, joined their men in struggles

for fair prices mobilized to protect their rights to social security. Their work in these fields suggest that adequate social programmes be maintained and that a portion of the wealth generated by the fishery is retained in rural communities. Although they are in a very different contexts the women from coastal communities in developed countries like Eastern Canada have understood and identified with the struggles of women in Southern countries such as Senegal and India. The fact that has to be recognized is that the coastal communities have evolved their own culture over decades and for them fishing is a way of life. Therefore the question of sustainability is also a part of their life and livelihood. Some of the guidelines in the way to this struggle will be to include women in the decision making process on all issues related to fishery. The entire approach to managing the fishery should not be centred around quotas and who will get how much but on the elements that are involved on the fisheries, women should be given their rightful role in the fishery. Finally it should be kept in mind that while one should see that the State does not pull out of its responsibility towards the community one has to come up with alternatives ourselves. The fishing community can be sustained only when women have their rightful place in the organisation and the struggles. This is possible only when the fishing community manages the fish resources.

Film by Anand Patwardhan: "Fishing in a sea of Greed"

Late in the evening, the participants were treated to a movie on the Indian Fishworkers struggle against joint ventures. The film by Anand Patwardhan, a leading documentary film maker known for his chronicling of many movements and struggles.

The film also brings out the struggles of the Bangladesh farmers against the shrimp farms. Tom Kocherry's hunger strike and the death of Kanuna have clearly generated the kind of emotions that lead to militant struggles by the victims.

Report of 18th November 1997

Continuation of Paper presentation : Parzival Copes

Common Property Fishing Rights: Coastal Resources for Coastal Communities

The paper brings to the fore the fact that in fisheries policies there are three areas of concern biological sustainability, economic efficiency and social equity. It is from this vantage point the challenge to the coastal community fishing rights are discussed in this paper. The rights of the fisherfolk of coastal communities are embedded in the sustained use they have made of local fish stocks.

But their rights are being challenged as never before by the growth in power of industrial corporation in the fisheries sector and the development of the current drive for formalization of fishing rights modelled on western notions of corporate and individual private property. Such rights are referred as individual transferable quotas (ITQs). They imply a free allocation of quotas to individuals and companies operating vessels at the time of the allocation, which may seem friendly enough to small-scale fishers. This allowed corporations and wealthy individuals, using their financial power, to bid up the price of quotas and then buy up access to large shares of the harvest, either by outright quota ownership or by control tied loans to individual operators. This

ITQ management became popular in much of the industrialized world. In the developing countries, however, the high management cost of ITQ systems has rendered it impracticable. Here the corporate fisheries sector impact the small-boat owners through the incursion of larger company vessels into inshore waters.

The negative biological, economic and social impacts of ITQ were discussed. But what did it mean for the fisherfolk? In brief, it meant that the enclosure of their fishery commons by the authority by a unilaterally acting state, the rupture of communities social fabric, and the sharpening of class and wealth distinctions. The prospect of alienation of a vital community resource base to wealthier outside interest. The ecology that nurtures is the ocean environment and that cannot but remain in common use. But what are the steps that have to be taken in making small-scale fisheries sustainable and viable? The paper explores the following. The first step in defending the small-scale fishing communities and their rights to the common property fish stocks is to accept reality and admit that the conduct of the fishery in many communities had or has become economically non-viable and that substantial changes have to be accepted.

The second step is to seize the initiative and challenge the government with a realistic, made-in-the-community plan for a viable fishery based on community retention of its resource base. Finally and most importantly, one has to remain relatively optimistic about the prospects for small-scale fisheries and coastal communities. In both developed and developing countries movements are taking place to promote the direct involvement of coastal community organizations and local fish harvesters associations in fisheries policy and management. Co-management, customary marine tenure and Community Development Quota (CDQ) are a few options of alternative arrangements explored in the paper.

Language Groups Meet

The guiding Questions for the discussion were the following:

1. Do you want WFF?
2. If so, what are the objectives of WFF?
3. What structure do you propose? Funds?
4. What kind of membership do you want—national, regional, associations, unions, etc.?
5. How do we disseminate these experience we have here, to other fisher people and to other countries that are not represented?

LANGUAGE GROUPS

ENGLISH -I	ENGLISH -II	ENGLISH-III	FRENCH	SPANISH
Saranapala de Silva	Lucas Fernando	Herman Kumara		Johan Hendricks
Andrew Johnston	Xola Mdabula		Lucie Breau	Enrique Omar Suarez
Barbara Stickel	Pietro Parravano			Mandla Gxanyai
John Sanfilippo	Peter Weber	Angela Sanfilippo	Hermenegilde Robichaud	Oscar Pablo Ort
Francois Poulin	Christine Hunt	Earle McCurdy	Jacques Brunet	Jose Maria Casa
Daniel Bernier	William Broderick	Fr. Desmond McGarth	O'neil Cloutier	Humberto Mella
Clovis Poirier	Leonard Poirier	Jacques Bertrand	Gastien Godin	Jose Valenzuela Robles
Claire Thifault-Poisson	Mary Desroches	Jean-Michel Lery	Andre Le Berre	Pedro Avendano Garces
Parzival Copes	Chris Venmore	Brian O' Riordan	Daniel Lefevre	Silvia Gonzalez Sanchez
	Michale Hagler	Pauline Tangiora	Rene-Pierre Chever	Raul Chavez Vasquez
P. Balan	Rolf Willmann	Haji Saidin bin hussain	Annik Ollitrault-Bernard	Claudio Nizama Silva
Mohammad Saeed	Mohammad Ali Shah	Sharafat Ali	Jean-Marc Barrey	Joan Parravano
Khadim Hussain	Flemming Smidt	Peter Send Mortonsen	Daniel Papineau	John Sutcliffe
	Aurthur Bogason	Gardiawasan Samson	Therese Senghor	Authur Bull
Mariette Korsrud	Suwanda Dhammika	R.K. Patil	Beatrice Gorez	James Smith
Xavier Pinto	P.R. Selvaraj	Ramesh Dhuri	Eliot Bernier	Joaquim G.S. Pil
Ramalingam	Rodolfo Sambojan		Dao Gaye	Muhammad Ayu
Juli Cariappa	Valarmati	Sundari		Warnakulasuriya Fernando
Thankappan D.	P.K. Prabhakar	M. Govindamma		
Motiram Bhawe		Vincent Jain		Nalini Nayak
P. V. Khokari	Gopinath Das	Ramulu		Torleif Paasche
Peter	Xavier	Varghese		Pamela Foster
ekanand	John Kurien	Sebastain Mathew		Makiyi Mafurirwanwa
	J.T. Varghese	Harekrishna Debnath		Satish babu
Je retinam Christy	Maheswara Rao	Pournima Meher		

Anton Buhler	Charles Capricho	Pierre Gillet		
Gardiawasan Samson		Suwanda Dhammika		
Nov. 17th Chair person (CP):Barbara Stickel Rapporteur (R) : Aparna Sunder	Nov 17th CP : Pietro Parravano R: Vivekanandan	Nov. 17th CP: Angela Sanfilippo R: J.B Rajan	Nov. 17th CP : Daniel Lefevre R : Beatrice Gorez	Nov.17th CP: Silvia G. Sanchez R: James Smith
Nov. 18th CP: Mariette Korsud R: Aparna Sunder	Nov. 18th CP: Lucas Fernando R: Vivekanandan	Nov. 18th CP: Pauline Tangoria R: J.B.Rajan	Nov. 18th CP: Lucie Brue R: Beatrice Gorez	Nov. 18th CP: Claudio N. Silva R: James Smith

Report of Discussion of English Group I, 18 November 1997.

1. Do you want the WFF?

There was general agreement on the need for an international network or organisation to take up international campaigns and exert pressure on national governments to sign or implement agreements. But people were unable to give unqualified assent unless they agreed with the nature of the organisation.

2. What are the objectives of the WFF?

Two issues here:

- name and constituency
- objectives

i. Definitions, name, constituency "harvester" difficult for some because that is what industrial aquaculturalists also called themselves. "traditional" if used to describe the nature of the technology used, was not applicable to most Northern fisheries. "inshore" - many small scale family owned boats in the USA, for instance, fish offshore for tuna "artisanal" implied a large skill component, whereas in the North there is greater reliance on technology. "workers" is too inclusive for some contexts as it would include workers on industrialised fleets and this would be rejected by artisanal community based fishers.

There was some agreement that the chief constituency would be "independent small boat fishers".

ii. Objectives

The objects listed in the by-laws were criticised for being too specific and for combining broad objectives with narrower means of achieving them, rather than listing the two separately.

There was uncertainty regarding the role and nature of the organisation: there was a concern that it would turn into a superstructure, a clearinghouse for funding, and this was considered undesirable. Should this be a campaign centre or a funding organisation or a service organisation?

It was agreed that it might be a good idea to have a broad mission statement followed by a list of objectives. The mission statement should be as follows:

The World Forum of independent small boat fish harvesters and workers in the fishery is committed to oppose irresponsible harvesting and aquaculture and all forms of pollution as being detrimental to the livelihood of small-scale fishers and the sustainability of the living aquatic resources. (there was some debate about aquaculture and the idea of "irresponsible" was used to clarify the kind that was being opposed)

The objectives would be: to provide mutual support for struggles at the national level to promote a decision making role for fishers organisations and communities in management and stewardship of the resource to promote the participation of member organisations in decision-making bodies at all levels, governmental and multilateral, international, national, regional and local to take action internationally to commit governments to adhere to international agreements. (This was to replace article j. of the objects in the proposed bye-laws.

There should be some explicit commitment in the objectives to recognising and making visible the work women do in the fishery and ensuring their participation in the organisation. article i. of the proposed bye-laws that talks about "protecting the rights of those depending on fishing and fisheries for their livelihoods" should be removed as this is an argument used by the large fleet owners - that they are providing livelihoods, against this it was argued that the idea of livelihood included a certain amount of control over the resource, and signified the struggle for survival rather than production for profit; it was not the same as "jobs".

3. Structure

Membership constituency:

Here the discussion about constituency came up again - i.e whether it should include workers on industrial vessels or only community based small boat fishers.

It was felt that the categories of members should be described more clearly, by type of work done. This would also make it possible to define women's work in the fishery and therefore their qualification for membership.

Member organisations; the size qualification - i.e. 10,000 members - was seen as completely unrealistic for most countries. legal registration was also a problem for countries where the government would only recognise government sponsored organisations similarly not all organisations collected member fees. But "member supported" was seen as a reasonable requirement.

It was concluded that the statement re. criteria for membership should state only that it be " a bonafide organisation of fish harvesters and fish workers which agrees with the objectives of the WFF and is approved by the regional review committee. This regional committee would work out the criteria for its region. It was proposed that the criteria should read: Fish harvester and fishworkers' organisations shall be considered for constituent membership provided they can furnish proof that they are truly representative of the fishing community.

It was also suggested that it might be better to consider the WFF as a movement rather than an organisation and so have broad and inclusive membership criteria.

Categories of Members:

Voting members should be those organisations which have fulfilled the criteria for membership above.

Role/need for affiliate and honorary members not clear.

Also not clear whether membership should be by organisation or by country. It was suggested that a number of organisations from a country could be members but each country would send only two delegates to the meetings - one man and one woman.

Management Committee

Regional committees were suggested that would bring about organization in their region and make recommendations for membership.

Composition

The number of members of the management committee should be increased, with more representation from each continent:

Asia - 3 - South east, including Australia and Oceania, South Asia, West Asia

Africa - 2

Europe - 2

North America - 2

South and Central America - 2, including one from the Caribbean

Funding:

It was recommended that a budget and funding committee be set up to look into the likely costs depending on structure, and to work out sources of funding. 5 and 6. More international media should be contacted re. this Forum - international press releases. A list of areas from which there are no delegates here should be drawn up and circulated so that those present are able to identify what needs to be done and whether they are able to make contacts in any of those areas. there should be regional conferences / or the management committee should hold meetings regionally so that more local people in each region are made aware of the WFF.

Report of Group Discussion : English Group II

Chair : Lucas Fernando
Rapporteur : V. Vivekanandan

The group had a quick round of self introduction and then got down to the business of answering the questions circulated by the steering committee regarding the proposed WFF.

Need for WFF

The need for a WFF was discussed at some length. While for some it was a straight forwards decision requiring no discussion, for others it was a point that needed some reflection. The absence of a representative body at the international level for the small fishworkers and owner operators has been a long standing problem. This "spokesman role" was seen by some as a major justification to start a WFF. The potential for ITF to be a representative of the fish harvesters and fishworkers was debated in this context. The ITF representatives in the group agreed that the ITF membership in the fisheries sector was mainly drawn from the workers on the industrial fleet and fish processing industries. While acknowledging the need for the spokesman role for the particular group of owner operators, ITF felt that it is the most appropriate union to which fishworkers unions can join. But others felt that a WFF was needed.

A key problem was who the WFF would represent. Whether WFF would also represent the workers in the processing industry and the workers on board the industrial fishing fleet was the most debated issue. Some countries felt that there are a lot of commonalities with the workers in the industrial sector. Often workers were from the fishing community and their interests were nor necessarily antithetical to the interests of the artisanal and small scale fishermen. In the processing, in particular, many workers were fisherwomen and their interests were important for WFF to represent. Some others felt that the workers on board the industrial fleet were part of a capitalistic profit oriented system rather than a livelihood oriented system. Hence it is not appropriate to WFF to integrate them. A suggestion to accommodate both positions was suggested. It was that WFF should represent the interests of the fish harvesters and fishing communities. The term "fishworker" which creates ambiguities could be dropped. The "community" idea integrates the women as well as the workers in the industrial sector from the fishing community.

Objectives for WFF

A long list of objectives were suggested for the WFF. There was considerable overlap and no attempt was made to edit the list. Just a rough classification is attempted.

Environmental objectives

1. To work for sustainable fisheries
2. To work for the protection of the coastal and marine environment.
3. To fight threats to coastal environment like industrial shrimp farming, industrial pollution, factory trawlers, etc.
4. To work against technologies that have been banned in one place and are being exported to other places.

Objectives related to the fishing community

5. To work for the enhancement of the quality of life of the fishing communities.
6. To work for the involvement and equal rights for the women in fisheries.
7. To encourage fishermen to organise wherever they are unorganised.

Fisheries management

8. To work for the management of the fishery for the fishermen and by the fishermen.
9. To work for the improved enforcement of fishery regulations by developing countries that lack the capacity to police their seas from poaching
- 10 To work for community based participatory systems of fisheries management.

Marketing.

11. To fight against corporate control over fish marketing leading to loss of bargaining strength of the fishermen..

Others

12. To represent fish harvesters and fishworkers.

An alternate and consolidated formulation was also suggested.

1. To represent interests of coastal fish harvesters and fishing communities.
2. To empower fishing communities
3. To protect fishing communities from both land based and sea based threats

Membership

The issue of membership was hotly debated and remained somewhat unresolved. A key issue was whether there would be direct membership of more than one union from a country and the criteria for such a membership. One model was that of multiple organisations representing a country subject to their fitting certain minimum criteria like size, payment of subscription, democratic functioning, etc. The other model was the country level representation in which many organisations from single country cannot be accommodated. A via media was suggested wherein many organisations can be primary members of the WFF and yet there is another level at which they have to among themselves select the country representative for decision making levels in WFF.

The membership criteria, especially that of size was debated. The organisers' proposal of 10,000 members as minimum was felt to be too restrictive. A modified proposal was 10,000 or 10% of the work force in fisheries. Even this was not felt to be reasonable.

The possibility to include non fishworker organisations like NGOs was discussed. It was generally felt that the WFF should be basically the body of fishworker organisations and some resource persons and invitees could also be involved.

Structure

Whether the structure can be discussed without having an idea of the funds at the disposal of the WFF was debated. For some the structure needed to be worked out and resources raised based on that. For others the funding possibilities needed to be assessed before a structure can be designed. However, there was a good discussion on the structure.

That there should be an international managing committee was obvious to the group, but the size and composition was difficult to arrive at. One suggestion was that we should have one representative from each continent. It was felt that this would be insufficient to ensure proper representation given the diversity of the members. The need to ensure proper representation for women was debated including the suggestion that each continent should have one man and one women representing it in the committee. It was also pointed out that in some continents like North America, the conflict of interest between fish harvesters of the constituent countries would lead to difficulties in deciding who would represent the continent.

The possibility of having continental and regional structures was also discussed. While such arrangements would be ideal, the problem of resources makes such propositions somewhat premature at present.

Funds

The suggestions for funding ranged from WFF relying on its own membership to an active fund raising from external sources. A suggestion was to employ professional fund raisers who would work on commission basis tapping the various private foundations in the USA and other countries. However, the strong opinion was that the character of the WFF would be compromised if it tried to take external funds for even its overhead costs. Taking fund selectively from external sources for projects was seen as a lesser evil.

A major problem foreseen by fishworker organisations was that member may not initially contribute much till they were convinced of the utility of the WFF. The most practical way out seemed to be the solution of piggy backing on the facilities and manpower available with national fishworker organisations like the NFF.

Sharing session

The group then stopped the discussion in view of the lack of time and spent some time exchanging experiences in the different countries. The Philippine situation and the European situation were discussed in particular. The Common Fisheries Policy in the European Union came in for debate with the inter country conflicts hogging the discussion.

Working Group: English Language Group 3

Questions to Answer

There were 23 persons representing Canada, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, UK, Denmark, USA and India.

1. **Do Want WFF:** Unanimously wanted a WFF;

2. **What Objectives:** There was a felt need to establish a broader objective of forming a common platform of fish harvesters and fishworkers the World over, with the following specific objectives.

! to create a network of fish harvesters and fishworkers

! to advocate at the national and international levels for sustainable management of marine and inland aquatic resources; protection of coastal and inland communities; customary rights as human rights;

! to educate fishing communities in order to increase their capability to manage their resources sustainably, and to encourage through advocacy to protect their rights and resources;

! to link small- scale producers and consumers globally in action to protect their resources and those dependent in fishing and fisheries for their livelihood;

3. **Structure and Funding ?**

Two views emerged from the debate: whether to establish an organisational structure dependent on a permanent secretariat, or to establish more of a loose network of partner organisations.

There was a consensus that WFF should be a global movement of fish harvesters and fishworkers; a network of fisher organisations is desirable with flexibility with regard to regional responsibilities; there should be some kind of central co-ordination with continental representation; but different organisations with a campaigning orientation can take different roles according to their area of involvement .

The shared values and commitment of members should be given paramount importance.

With regard to funding, individual contributions by member organisations and " screened" donations from other organisations can be considered. The issue of individual membership fees was discussed, but no consensus was reached as to how this would be best achieved, or what kinds of weighting should be given to more economically advantaged individuals..

Miscellaneous Comments:

! the wording of the bye- laws needed some serious work done by the drafting committee so as to avoid ambiguities of any sort (e.g. defining the term fish harvester more precisely);

! there was a discussion on whether and how membership should be regulated. Whether according to size of vessel, kind of business ownership etc. No consensus was reached.

! WFF should have a Logo (symbolic sticker) patented and permission has to be

given to participating member organisation to use it as a symbol.

Report of the French Language group(with French, Canadian and Senegalese participants)

1. Do you want WFF?

--Yes

Reasons:

- a) Marine resources is a collective property of the world. They should be managed in a collective manner on a world scale by the communities who depend on them for their livelihood.
- b) There is an urgency for the existence of this WFF today due to the world fisheries crisis.

2. What are the objectives of this WFF?

- a) To preserve the marine resources, for the fishery crisis is brought about because of the diminishing fish resources. This depletion of resources is due to several factors--overfishing, Pollution natural phenomena preservation of marine resources also involves a question of intensive aquaculture.

3. Proposals

--involvement of fishermen in the application of measure of surveillance and control measures
--Carrying out a campaign with precise objective at the interventional level, for example--controlling/freezing fishing gears that are destructive and promoting selective gears of fishing --To create exchanges at a world level between existing professional organizations. This would help in bringing about a better dissemination of information between organization so that destructive technologies will not be transferred from one part of the world to another. To bring about the recognition of the rights of the fishermen to have a priority access to resources (recall the paper by John Kurien) This recognition should enable the fishermen's organizations to be heard and to be involved in defining the policies the concern them. This is applicable at all levels--national, and international organizations FAO, UN, ILO, etc

A more concrete proposal was made "A World Artisanal Fishing Day" . This day should be organized together with the international organizations so that it may have maximum effect.

- d) to help the communities of fishermen to maintain the traditional activity and the activities of the coastal communities in those places where they are carried out, this would help to avoid migration.

- e) to communicate to each other the stands taken by the participating organizations.

Responses to questions 3 and 4--

What structures do you desire for the future organization of the World Forum? What type of membership?

- a). Organization--Necessity of Support Administration : There were observations that administration should have simple structure. Priority should be given to meeting of members and with exchange and decisions taken by the members. There was a proposal to move towards a federation of professional artisanal organization of fishworkers.
- b) Several questions were unresolved regarding membership

--What will be the criteria of selecting members and by whom?

--regional, geographical and national representatives

--representatives (organizations that have more or less a large number of member adhering to the objectives) The criteria of Selection--that is, on what basis and also by whom and by what procedure? The criteria of Selection have yet to be defined. What is the definition of artisanal fisheries? --"according to the size and the capacity of the boat, by the key fact that it is fisherman/owner/working on boat involved in the management of his own fisheries activity.

--Where will the headquarters be? How to act so that the information can be distributed among all the members.

--What is the role of NGOs ? They should be associated -- given that some have contributed to the promotion of the fishing communities. But they will not be given the status of members. The NGOs should also share the finances.

c) Funds--What does this imply?

--The administration linked to the Forum

--the financing of particular specific activity--campaign, World Fishery Day, the regular dissemination of information to members.

--Question still remains as to how to enable members who do not have the financial means to take part in the meetings of the WFF and be able to disseminate the information.

What is the annual subscription?

d) How to Communicate your experience of the meeting to the fisher people in your country?

--First and foremost it is grass root work which is going to help to convince those people who have not followed the same spirit. Even if it is difficult, several attempts could be made to communicate our experience to others.

--This work should be done on the basis of reference documents prepared by the Co-ordination Committee and it should be widely circulated, keeping in mind the countries that were not represented at the WFF and those who did not participate due to financial constraints: Every participant should work out a methodology how he/she is going to use it in an effective manner in the respective context.

--Women should be involved in a special way in both in defining of the plan of action as well as in its application. But one should not forget the depletion of certain species due to industrial fleets are affecting everyone.

--This should not bring us into a battlefield between artisanal sector and industrial sector, but each one has its place without interfering with the other.

6. Can you take responsibility of contacting and informing the organizations that are absent?

One should also inform the fishing community in the North and South to collaborate. Besides the questionnaire a draft resolution was presented by the delegates of Senegal / Canada/France for a Coalition for Equitable Fishery Agreements. The regional fishery situation of Senegal / Canada/ France shared the divergent fishing situations crisis and the reasons shown was the

difficult relationship with the state authority which ignores the fisherpeoples interests. The draft Resolutions of Coalition of Equitable Fishery Agreement aims at promoting a Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing Agreements.

The Spanish Language Group

Do you want WFF?

a) The Group in general agrees that there should be a WFF. The existence of World Forum is characterized by the concern of the fishermen especially the traditional fishermen, by the communities of fisherfolk and fishworkers within the framework of a common understanding of reasonable and sustainable use of fish resources and marine ecosystem and by the conditions of work security of the fishermen and the seaworkers.

b) The group puts strong emphasis that the community of fisherfolk and fishworkers are the central agents and promoters of the protection of sea resources and they stress the need to bring about a new "world order of fisheries/fishing".

c) The human person, the worker and the communities of workers are the principal factor in this order, so that their socio-economic aspect and human life and security at the sea are at the centre of this concern. Therefore, it would be paradoxical that legal protection would be given to other persons and not to those who are engaged in fishing activities. Any measures of protection and rational exploitation of the sea is to be directed towards the needs of the fishworkers and the fishing community.

Objectives

i) To promote an international struggle for the preservation of maritime resources, marine ecosystems inland water bodies and oceans, in direct relation with the betterment of the life of fishermen, coastal communities and seaworkers.

ii) To promote as international struggle for the social security and economic and working conditions of the fisherfolk and seaworkers.

iii) To foster integration of organization of fisherfolk and seaworkers and to support attempts to establish and organize the fishworker who are not yet organized.

iv) To promote an international struggle to maintain security of human life at the sea.

v) To promote an international struggle for the defence of the coastal communities and their ways of development with full respect to their special culture, ways of working and style of life.

vi) To establish world representative body to bring about pressure so that the fisherpeople and seaworkers have full participation in the generation and control of the structure of administrative order of the fishing establishments in the national and international levels.

vii) To denounce the states and government that do not practice the international agreements that

have been adopted, which are systematically violated in favour of the sale of the fish resources and fishing grounds.

viii) To establish and international struggle, for the defence of ecology as a basic condition for the various models of administrative and preservation of fish resources.

ix) To struggle for the establishment a new interventional fishing order in which the presentation of resources, defence of the fishworkers and coastal communities will be the central elements for and equitable and sustainable development.

x) Fishermen must be considered " People of the Sea" and therefore ILO norms of protection should be applied to them.

Structure of the WFF

General Assembly----Fishing organisations

General Secretariat---2 Secretaries

Continental Delegations---5 delegates

Permanent Conference by areas or Continents--Organisations by continent or area.

Financing of WFF

a) Self financing so that it be autonomous

b) For the time being it can seek help from international co-operation.

Membership

National

Communications with other organisations and other countries

A bulletin of the Forum must be an instrument of communication and expression of the will of the participatory organisations.

In Latin America a permanent office has been established for the national organisations of fishermen and seaworkers.

Report of 19th November 1997

Exposure programme to Mumbai was arranged mainly for the delegates, those who stayed back went for a tour of Delhi. Documentary films on fisheries issues were shown on video at ISI. Participants who went for the Exposure

1. Brian O'Riordan

2. Beatrice Gorez

3. Mr. Haji Saidinbin Hussain

4. Mr. P. Balan

5. Mr. Mohammad Saeed Baluch

6. Mr. Mohammad Ali Shah

7. Mr. Charles Capricho

8. Mr. Saranapala de Silva

9. Mr. Lucas Fernando

10. Mr. Johan Hendricks

11. M. Dao Gaye
12. Mme. Therese Senghor
13. Mr. Andrew Wilfred Johnston
14. Mr. Xola Mdabula
15. Sr. Oscar Pablo Ortie
16. Sr. Enrique Omar Suarez
17. Sr. Humberto Mella
18. Sr. Jose Valenzuela Robles
19. Silvia Gonzalez Sanchez
20. Raul Chavez Vasquez
21. Sr. Claudio Nizama Silva
22. Dr. Anton Buhler
23. Ms. Lucie Breau
24. Mary Desroches
25. Ms. Christine Hunt
26. Earle McCurdy
27. Hermenegilde Robichaud

28. John Sutcliffe
29. Mr. Pietro Parravano
30. Mrs. Joan Parravano
31. Barbara Stickel
32. M. Andre Le Berre
33. M. Daniel Lefevre
34. Mme. Danielle Le Sauze
35. Mr. Arthur Bogason
36. Ms. Mariette Korsrud
37. Sr. Joaquim Pilo
38. Mr. Chris Venmore
39. Torleif Paasche
40. Charles Capricho
41. R.K Patil
42. Xavier Pinto
43. Rodolfo Sambojan

EXPOSURE PROGRAMME : 19TH 1997 - MAHARASHTRA

Dear Participants.

Welcome to Maharashtra

This exposure programme will take you to 3 places:

VERSOVA - for a Traditional Welcome

UTTAN - to look at crafts and gear + lunch.

CUFFE PARADE - to look at 'Marketing'

All through today kindly accept instructions only from M/S Rambhau Patil and Xavier Pinto, your official guides.

Kindly do not consume unauthorized foods.

Mineral water for Drinking is available in the Bus.

Please look after your personal belongings with utmost care: especially . Cameras etc.

Have a nice day!

A. VERSOVA - A Village within a City

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Population of Fishing Community | : | Male 10,000 Female 10,000 |
|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|

- children 5,000 (approx)
2. Oldest Living Member : Mr. Gopinath Krishna Keskar
86 yrs of age Wellknown.
Freedom Fighter for the
Independence of India 1947.
Founder Member of Co-
operative Fisheries Societies in
Versova.
 3. Types of Fishing Craft and Gear : Country Crafts and Trawl Boats.
- cotton twine and Nylon Nets.
- Some Engines with 4- -6
Cylinders
 4. Kinds of Fish Catch : Prawns, Lobsters, Pomphrets,
Pomphrets, Pala , Ghol , King
fish, Bombay Duck, Indian
Salmon, Milk Fish,
Small Shrimp etc.
 5. Fishing Seasons : Sept, Oct, Nov, March, April, May
 6. Method of Sales : Auction
- Low quality fish and discarded
fish is used as fertilizers. This by
- catch is sold by negotiation.
 7. Women : Involved in sale of fresh fish
- drying of fish
- disposal of by - catch dried fish
for fertilizers.
 8. Major Problems and threats
to the Fishing Community : 1. Environmental Pollution
2. Lack of facilities such as
Water, Lights, Landing
Sites and Sales Centres.
3. Harassment by Customs
Officers
 9. Special Remarks : 1. During the struggle
forefront. As many as 125
Freedom Fighters including
women made significant
Sacrifices.
2. Versova Fishing Community is
a Pioneer in the Co-operative

Movement in the Fisheries Sector.

3. There has been a complete harmony among all the people residing in Versova irrespective of their Caste Creed and Religion.

B. UTTAN, PALLI, CHAWK - Major Fishing Village.

1. Population of Fishing Community : Male 5000, Female 6000, Children 9,000 (approx)
2. Oldest Living Member : Mr. Francis Sinvar Paschya - Age 80 years.
3. Types of Fishing Craft and Gear : Plank Canoe - 35' - 50' length
Fibre glass Boats - 15' - 30' length in board Engines
Nylon + Cotton Nets
4. Kinds of Fish Catch : Pomphrets, Chinese Pomphrets, King fish, Black Pomphrets, Vhol, Indian Salmon, Big Ribbon Fish, Squid, Cuttle Fish, Ray Fish, Big Prawns, Hilsa, Bombay Duck, Milk Fish, Small Ribbon Fish, Phalya, Shark, Small Shrimp
5. Fishing Seasons : August to November main season
Thereafter till month of May (Except Promprets)
6. Method of Sales : a) Co - operative Society who in turn supplies it to the exporters.
b) Private buyers at the shore.
c) To markets at Bhayandar, Crawford market etc.
7. Women : - : Mainly sorting of the fish at the shore.
- Drying and preserving of small fish
- Selling of small fish in the market.
8. Major Problems and threats to the Fishing Community ; a) Private buyers at the shore attract and confuse the people
b) Want of Jetty /' landing site
c) A big problem people are facing is the anchoring place for the boats during monsoon as well as in

- between when some repairs or services need to be done.
- d) Quota of the Diesel supplied is not sufficient.
 - e) Shortage of water for Ice
 - f) Increasing no of drop outs of the school going children.

C. CUFFE PARADE, COLABA - The Sea Saves ; highrise buildings threaten.

1. Population of Fishing Community : Male 3000, Female 2500, Children 2500 (approx)
2. Oldest Living Member : Shri Krishna, Vitthal Dhanu aged 80 yrs. Still very healthy and weaves nets for fishing.
3. Types of Fishing Craft and Gear : - Country Boats and Trawlers
 - Mono - filament nets
 - Twine nets - Nylon nets
 - Inboard + Outboard motors.
4. Kinds of Fish Catch : Pomfret, Ghol, shell - fish, Prawns, Black Pomphret, Rock lobsters, Catfish, Chinese Pomphret, Indian Salmon etc.
5. Fishing Seasons : Main Season - August to December
Slack Season - January to February
Good Season - Mar, April, May
Possibility of rough weather/storm during September to October.
6. Method of Sales : Auction, Tender" for Exporters, Local Markets.
7. Women : Selling fresh fish in the local marke. Always in the forefront of struggles and agitations
8. Major Problems and threats to the Fishing Community : a) Exploitation by merchants and agents.
b) If the fishcatch is plentiful the prices are considerably lowered by. merchants/ agents
c) A seven -star hotel is envisaged in the vicinity. The Fishing Community has opposed the move since it will adversely affect them.
d) No Guarantee for the rates of various species of fish.

Special Remarks :1)

This Fishing Community exists at the site because of the reientless struggled by Mr. Bhai Bhandarkar ; President of the State of Maharashtra's Machimar Kriti Samiti (State representative body of Fisherpeople). The colony is therefore named after him.

2)

The place has assumed historical importance since a

number of agitations were launched by fisherpeople from this venue; for their legitimate rights.

3)

If an international co-ordination between various local fishing bodies in the Indian Marine states & other maritime countries is done, the local intermediaries could be eliminated and exports of fish could be done by the local fishing bodies. This would go a long way in improving the finances of fisherworkers.

Report of 20 November 1997

Speech by Pauline E. Tangiora (Aotearoa).

Starts with a Maori prayer. Then commends Thomas Kocherry for turning down the Pew Fellowship on the principle that it is funded by Sun Oil Company, which has done great environmental harm. "We need leadership like Tom Kocherry's to provide for the future. Without it our fishing communities are in danger. Unfortunately, it is the MNCs that are in control and posing a threat to subsistence fishers. This Forum has to make this choice." Rest is in text supplied. Concluded by adding that two-thirds of the world's oceans are Pacific and yet there are no representatives from there present here. One has to ensure greater representation from the bottom up in future.

The paper--

World Forum of Fish-harvesters and Fishworkers

17th-21st Nov. 1997, New Delhi, India

Who has responsibility for the survival traditional indigenous fisher communities

Paper presented by Pauline E. Tangiora

Kia Ora Koutou na te mihi te Atua Tene Koe. Tena koe te Rangitira Pa Kocherry met tou committee. Tino pai mea tou Korero Ote monie. Tena Koutou Tena Koutou Tena Koutou Katoa.

Grandmother takes the children to the sea to harvest seafood for their table. She has lived for several years in the city. The grandchildren have lived at home. They tried to tell her the sea has changed. Her wailing can be heard as she goes from rock to rock, ledge to ledge. Her pain increases as she realizes her first offering of the sea on her return home was no more.

The social and cultural dimension within her spiritual world, to Tangora the sea that was hung on the rakau, the branch of the manuka tree, may not happen again. The pain of this heart and the dying of her spirit was happening before my eyes. She kept walking out further and further as if to wash away her pain.

How many here today would understand such pain?: This is not a story, it is reality.

Indigenous people and tribal peoples live with such pain. Some, like this grandmother in her time, knew a time of ceremonies that are an integral part of their communities, that gave to their lives an essence of the soul being what it is. Sadly some peoples have had to leave their communities to seek employment, yet deep within, the spirit of a way of life remains.

Indigenous/tribal peoples have had, from time immemorial, a responsibility of guardianship for the incoming generations to see that Kaimoana-seafood is available.

Much of the Mana or respect of these peoples is linked into the providing of food to the communities; and through sale or bartering, others have shared what Tangoroa the sea has to offer, as well as providing of food to the communities; and either through sale or bartering others have shared; one would like to put to this meeting today is the following:

Does this forum have a responsibility to address the coastal, indigenous/tribal peoples issues? These people are the coastal people who must be shown the respect and courtesy that is due to them. This corporate world is showing little, if any, respect; infact, we would go as far to say, genocide is being subtly practised. Rapidity of the non-traditional fishing practises such as factory ships and sonar-equipped vessels are definitely not justified in any way of social responsibility, or environmentally both inshore or in the deep sea. The multilateral agreement of Investment has come as a thief in the night. The 29 counties (who are called the "rich counties") will also affect coastal communities if it is allowed to happen. More detailed papers are available at the back of the room if you are interested prepared by environmentalist-academics in conjunction with indigenous peoples of Aotearoa. Would this forum not have a responsibility to address as a separate issue the coastal fisherfolk?

My extensive reading of the National Fishworkers' Forum's actions to protect their fishing responsibilities, for the future generations make for sadness. Other communities such as Senegal, Namibia, and Pacific Nations are all under imposed pressure through so-called "first world" countries, to allow factory ships in their waters. Over exploitation in the Pacific of its fish is affecting islands, and indeed a detailed paper by Cath Wallace on the environmental state of fishing in my own country doesn't make for god reading. This paper is also available on the table.

Our grandchildren of today are crying out for leadership. Let not the soul of the old people die. Our encounters will be challenging and be hard. This is so vital for the life force within us. Multinationals will only succeed if we are challenging their every step. We will not also the fishing work place not to be a place for succour for the future of our children; we will hear again the song of women harvesting the sea, that they in their old age will bring their grandchildren in the 3rd millennium to an abundant harvest, so that their cultural practices will live on.

One pays respect to the women present here today. They give balance to the male/female dimension of life without the balance of male and female, each in support of the other, families and communities would not exist. In life, like in nature, all this must be in balance. Thanks to those responsible for making it possible my attendance here to put the voice of the communities who are unheard and unseen. To those who have given time and energy to have this forum. THANK YOU.

Tena Koutou Tena Koutou /Tena Koutou Katoa

Light is the Mother of Life. Light is the Secret Presence of the Divine
Sun's Light
Moons Rays

Depth of Fire
Speed of Lightning
Whisper of Wind.

Harekrishna Debnath announces Thomas Kocheerry's refusal of the Pew Fellowship. Ethically the polluter giving award for Marine protection is unacceptable. Receiving such award will affect the fisherpeople's movement.

The Chairs propose the idea of a Rally to Parliament House at 7 p.m on the 21st. This would be the first act of the World Forum (the need for which there is clear consensus). The Rally will submit a memorandum to the Prime Minister of India to withdraw the Aquaculture Authority Bill, intended to circumvent the Supreme Court Judgement.

They explain the background to the petition: On 11 December 1996, the Indian Supreme Court ordered the demolition of all non-traditional aquaculture farms by 31 March 1997. These farms occupy some 400,000 hectares and pollute the drinking water of villages, destroy the mangroves, and pollute the ocean. But the governments of the coastal states and the Government of India sided with the MNCs and the World Bank. An Aquaculture Authority Bill was introduced in Parliament to override the SC judgement. The Rajya Sabha (Upper House) passed the Bill but the Lok Sabha (Lower House) has not. Fisher people all over the country protested strongly. On August 15, 1997, the anniversary of fifty years of independence, they marched to the aquaculture farms and asked governments to implement the Supreme Court judgement and withdraw the Aquaculture Authority Bill.

Dao Gaye (Senegal): Why is the Rally scheduled for 7 p.m when it will already be dark? Why not when we can be seen?

Thomas Kocheerry: Because we cannot sacrifice our programme here on the 21st. People are still around at 7 p.m. and we will be seen.

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 national organizations

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

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

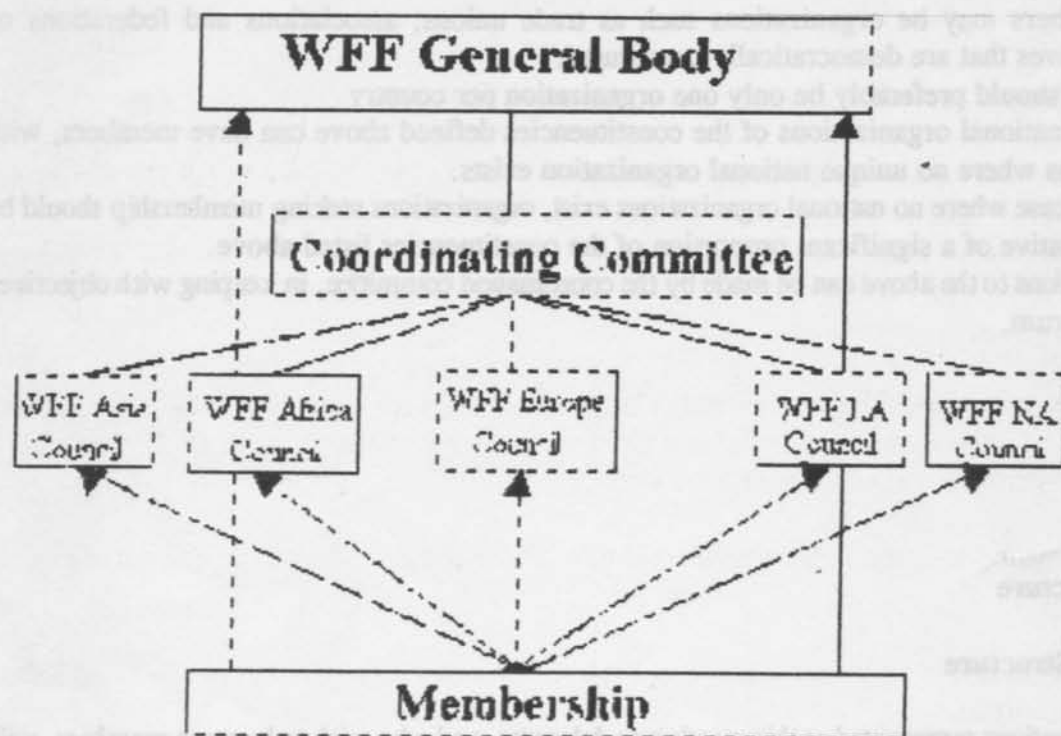
Establish mechanisms to accept new members, and accept new interim members.

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.

V. Actions Plan

1. Organize a World Fishing Day with national campaigns to mark it.

Break-up into language groups to discuss draft document.

Report of 20 November (cntd)

Evening Plenary

Pauline Tangiora (Aotearoa): Thanks all those present. Also wants to thank those who made her presence here possible. Makes a suggestion, that there are other ways of running meetings,

sharing information and ideas, for instance, indigenous peoples' ways. Aboriginal fishing communities goes by consensus and it is not majority based capitalistic democracy. Aboriginal fishing community itself can be as organization to the members of WFF. So the western models don't have to dominate. Thanks everyone for their fellowship, and Thomas Kocherry for his courageous stand. She will go back proud and humbled to have met someone like this. Concludes with a song, which means: "we pin the love of our ancestors on one to another, in friendship and unity."

20 November - Minutes /Report from Language Groups

Comments were made on the draft document entitled: World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers - Charter Proposed by the Steering Committee.

General point - All terms (such as indigenous, artisanal, coastal community) should be defined in a note or appendix.

Name (World Forum)

Term movement should be used instead; Via Campesina uses this term rather than organisation, because an organisation is structured and rigid, whereas a movement suggests that by coming together members don't lose their own identity.

- ! a symbolic name, rather than a rigid title, as for instance, Via Campesina (the peasant way).
- ! forum is passive sounding and suggests a place for talk rather than action; we need a more activist name.
- ! alliance rather than Forum. Movement has its advantages but sounds more pretentious.
- ! Global Alliance of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers?
- ! forum does not have negative connotations -there is already too much action out there - we need a place to gather and talk and this is such a place. It is a place to provide support for members, provide links, not carry out actions.
- ! alliance, movement suggest the nature of the organisation, but do not suggest our objective, which is to bring us together. Forum serves this purpose, of bringing us together.
- ! English is not always the best language to use, so a simple word may be better in translation into other languages.

Preamble / Mission Statement

- we need a mission statement
- this is necessary to reduce the number of objectives

- there should be a mission statement as well as a list of objectives
- the mission statement should contain the guiding principles
- group agrees to recommend the following wording for a mission statement: To protect against irresponsible harvesting, aquaculture, economics and laws that are detrimental to the livelihood of small-scale, artisanal, traditional and indigenous peoples and fishers, and to protect the sustainability of all aquatic resources around the world.

Objectives

There is no need to state that the objective is to establish a world forum since the presumption is that this document will follow from the establishment of the Forum.

1. -protect, defend and enhance...

- ! the word coastal communities is problematic in South Africa where fisherpeople don't live on the coast, but have been displaced to great distances from it by racist policies.
- ! fisher communities?
- ! just communities?
- ! persons and communities?
- Persons opens up the route to ITQs etc. The collective, community interest in the fishery has to be foregrounded
- ! indigenous people are not persons, they are members of communities. Even the word community needs to be prefaced with traditional, indigenous, etc,
- ! fisher, tribal and indigenous communities? -indigenous and tribal people are marginalised even more because they are not mentioned explicitly, so it is important to mention them. in N.W. USA, non-indigenous communities do most of the fishing and there are often conflicts between them and the indigenous communities, so both have to be taken into account.
- ! It is important to make the document as inclusive as possible and to leave it to different countries to define it in their contexts. The most important role of the WFF is to defend the right of local fishers to harvest the oceans. In Norway, both factory trawlers and small boats belong to the same organisation, so we cannot speak only for the small-scale fishers. It is not possible to exploit the continental shelf there only with small boats. But even the larger boat owners are linked to the community and share problems such as pollution.
- ! It has to be recognised that the Forum can only consist of those who share the same objectives. It cannot include those who do not share these objectives.
- ! the indigenous peoples of Aotearoa work with non-indigenous people and do not exclude them from their understanding of community. But they do not include those from miles away who wish only to exploit the resources.
- ! in India too the tribal people are not recognised as fishers, so it is important to make explicit mention of them.

- ! in Norway, fishing activities are integrated into coastal communities who also do other work. So we have to say coastal communities.

It was suggested that a second clause be added in the section on membership to include tribal and indigenous peoples explicitly. Regarding the "communities" to be defended, it was decided to ask the drafting committee to work out an appropriate adjective since none could be agreed upon.

2. -sustainable fishing [practices]...
3. -Protect [] communities, fish resources, [and fish habitats]...
4. -The term regime was objected to.
 - recommended term to replace it: "people participatory framework".
 - traditional and [indigenous people's] customary rights
6. -replace "ensure" with [support the guardianship role of its constituency in ensuring]
7. -the UN, FAO etc are systems of governments and will not recognise, so there is no point asking for their recognition.
 - for instance, they didn't give accreditation to Via Campesina, a worldwide network of food producers, at the FAO Food Summit.
 - recommended: "Represent fish harvesters and fishworkers in all appropriate international and regional fora and provide for their participation."
8. -recommended: "Serve as a [monitoring unit] to ensure compliance by [all parties] with international [environmental] agreements in order to prevent [overexploitation]."
 - an additional objective is recommended: "Reject all regional and international trade agreements that threaten the lives of fishers."
9. -recommended: "Provide (?mutual" to be eliminated) support for national and international struggles [consistent with its objectives]."
10. -Encourage [and assist]...
11. -Recognise, [protect] (instead of "preserve"), and enhance...
12. -[assist member organisations to] secure and develop....

II. Membership

1. A. (a) Fish harvesters -should be defined, as "anyone directly engaged in fishing/harvesting the sea"
 - artisanal fishers and subsistence fishers should be made two separate categories

- aboriginal or indigenous [peoples who are sea harvesters]
 - owner operators and independent small boat fishers could be combined into one category
- b) This clause proved very contentious. In South Africa, crew members have been given a share in the industrial fishery at the expense of the artisanal fishers.
- in Pakistan, crew members belong to the community - they cannot be excluded
 - crew members should be made affiliate rather than core members
 - the example was given of a Maori boat going to Namibia and hiring crew there. Other Maori people opposed this on the grounds that it would deprive Namibian artisanal fishers of their fishery, even though it was a boat owned by the Maori "community".
 - A compromise was agreed upon: "Crew members....who are presently members of national organisations [of fish harvesters in the categories above]."
- indigenous peoples have problems with the idea of membership through a national organisation
 - they do not belong to these and feel this will be used to keep them out. Membership should be given to communities, not organisations. This applies to other parts of this section as well.
- c) work [in support of] (instead of "to sustain") the fishery.
- what about groups or organisations of people who belong to fishing communities, who no longer fish, but who are engaged in work to support the fishery, such as the Malla community in North India? Or consumer groups or such like activist groups?
- d) Fishworkers
- this entire category should be affiliate members rather than core members

B. -Corporations [and allied affiliates]...

Types of Organisations

1. -it should be made clear that NGOs cannot be members, only mass-based organisations.
2. A second, new type is to be added: traditional, tribal and indigenous peoples dependent on the fishery for their livelihood.

Two general points:

-each country should decide which constituencies to consider as members

-other modes of representation and decision-making, besides the Western modes which dominate presently, should be considered.

III. Interim Structure

1. -Organisations represented at this meeting as delegates [and observers from organisations that meet the above-listed criteria]...
2. -suggested language: "Membership may be granted to such members or organisations who have a commitment to the objectives and criteria of the WFF and who make application for membership."
3. - define a draft charter
 -[prepare for and] hold a constituent assembly
 establish [proposals for] mechanisms...

Proposed Final Structure

-there should be two additional regional representatives and councils -North Pacific and South Pacific

IV. Funding

1. -indigenous peoples may not be able to afford to pay a membership fee.
2. -...only those contributions [offered by organisations and on terms] that are consistent....

Report of the language groups (contd)

Preamble

The coastal communities the world over are being marginalised by market forces. The coastal communities of the world unite to uphold their human rights, society, justice and cultures, affirming sea as mother and source of life, and commit themselves to sustain the resources for future generations through creating the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers. (English 3)

To protect the rights of fish harvester and fishworker communities to priority access, management, sustainable exploitation of fishery resources and for the conservation of fish stocks. (Spanish)

Overall Objectives (English 2)

To establish a World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers organisations with the overall objective of protecting the fishing communities and the fish resources on which their livelihoods are based.

OR

To establish a World Forum of Fish Harvester and Fishworker organisations to protect and defend the right to life and livelihood of fishing communities.

I. Objectives

1. -safeguard and strengthen the coastal and other traditional communities that depend on the fishery for their livelihood.
include inland fishers
2. -marine [and inland] ecosystem
 - create an understanding of marine resources and ecosystems as [the heritage of fish harvester and fishworker communities]
3. -fish resources, [and fish habitats]
 - to establish and promote the rights of fish harvester and fishworker communities to a permanent territory in the coastal zone, supporting the struggle against their displacement by tourism, pollution, industrial aquaculture, overfishing and destructive fishing practices, among others.
4. -specify "customary rights to the fishery under their national jurisdiction"
 - maintain, [reclaim] and promote
5. -managing the resources, and the marine and inland ecosystem (rather than fisheries and oceans)
 - promote a new world order in the fisheries in which the organisations of fish harvesters and fishworkers participate in the management, establishment, control, and evaluation of methods of fishery management, ensuring rights to the fish and access to resources both at the national and international level.
6. -ensure food security by fishing only for food as human consumption and sustaining stocks for the future.
7. -ensure [equitable] representation of fish harvesters and fishworkers
 - need to differentiate between representation in UN bodies and in funding organisations.
 - promote official recognition of fish harvester and fishworkers organisations in all fora and appropriate organisations at national and international level and assure their representation in those organisations.
8. -technologies [and practices] that lead to this crisis
-compliance with [appropriate] agreements
9. -support for national and international struggles [of fish harvesters and fishworkers]

10. -encourage [and assist]

- encourage [and support]

11. -move this up as objective 2.

- recognise (delete "preserve") and enhance...

12. -move this up as objective 4.

- initiate an international campaign for the rights to social security, decent working conditions and fair wages, and the safety of human life at sea for fish harvesters and fish workers.

- also, initiate an international campaign for fish harvesters and fishworkers to be considered seafarers (people of the sea) and apply the provisions of the ILO to protect their status as well as ratifying the provisions of the treaty of Torremolinos.

- secure [and improve]

- economic viability and social equity of indigenous communities who engage in fishing and fish harvesting activities.

13. -[recognise] (instead of "preserve") and enhance the unique culture[s] of fishing communities

II. Membership

Constituencies

A. (a) -artisanal and subsistence, coastal and inland

- "crew members in this sector" needs qualification

(b) -this too needs more clarification

(d) -all those who work in the fishery

-[subsistence or non-commercial] fish vendors

B. -Corporations owning [fishing] vessels or processing

[vessels] and plants [and those engaged in industrial aquaculture in a manner inconsistent with the objectives of this Forum] cannot be members of the Forum.

Types of Organisations

1. -NGOs should not be members

"democratically constituted" cannot be a criterion -this must be decided on merit or context.

- organisations such as trade unions, associations and federations of cooperatives, [and with national representation] can be members.

2. -there can be more than one organisation per country, depending upon the function the organisations have -clauses 2, 3, and 4 should be dropped since they have to do with the issue of "one"organisation. The preference should be for as many organisations as possible to be direct members, rather than just one.

5. -membership shall be at the discretion of the Coordination

- Committee (rather than just exceptions).

Non-voting membership could be given to a limited number of organisations and individuals.

III. Structure

1. Interim Structure

2. -the steering committee will respect the balance of gender and region
gender wise and region wise membership should be given on an equitable basis.

3. -the ICC will...define a regional structure

- function for a three year period

- mention should be made of how the ICC will function -that it will have shared responsibility by all members OR it will have a single coordinator

- the ICC will have a Coordinator

Final Structure

1. -All member organisations will constitute the General
Assembly of the WFF

2. -the Coordinating Committee will have a Coordinator

3. -there should be two representatives from each continent

- there should be a Coordinator from Latin America. Latin America already has a regional council in preparation for the WFF and wants its representative to be one of the Coordinators.

21 November. Plenary. Chairs: Earle McCurdy (CCPFH, Canada) and Thomas Kocherry

(NFF India)

Financial Statement was presented:

**World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers
Forum Mondial des pecheurs et des travailleurs de la peche
Foro Mundial de Pescadores y Trabajadores de la Pesca**

**Revenue and Expenses Budget (Estimates)
Budget de revenue et depense (Estimation)
Presupuesto de ingreso y gastos (Estimacion)**

November 97, Novembre 97, Noviembre 97

Revenue, Ingreso	US \$
Belgium, Belgia, Belgique	4,676.00
Canada	56,480.00
Germany, Alemania, Allemagne	10,600.00
France, Francia	42,244.00
Total Revenue, Total Ingreso	114,000.00
Expenses, Depense, Gastos	
Coordination, Coordination, Coordinacion	
Travel, Voyage, Viaje	3,000.00
Coordinators, Coordinateur, Coordinadores	19,000.00
Translation, Traduction, Traduccion	5,000.00
General Office, Depense Gen., Gastos Generales	1,000.00
Miscellaneous, Autres, otro	--
Sub-total Coordination	28,000.00
World Forum, Forum mondial, Foro Mundial	
Travel, Voyage, Viaje	69,000.00
Promotion/Communication/Publicidad/ Communication	17,000.00
Miscellaneous, Autres, otro	--
Sub-total World Forum	28,000.00
Total Expenses, Depense Total, Total Gastos	114,000.00
Net Surplus/(Deficit), Saldo acreedor y (Deudor)	

**World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers and Fishworkers
Income Expenditure Account (upto 19th November 1997)**

(All figures in Indian Rupees)

Income		Expense	
Contributions from the fisherpeople of India	522,168.00	Allowances	16,325.00
		Travel Expenses	222,811.00
		Office expenses	31,350.00
		Post, telegraph and fax	49,459.00
Interest received	970.00	Stationary	12,715.00
Loans	90,278.00	Boarding and lodging	126,154.00
Contribution from Participants	100,000.00	Hall rent	17,366.00
		Bills payable	26,632.00
		Loans to be returned	90,278.00
		Bank Commission	335.00
		Balance	119,991.00
Total	713,416.00	Total	713,416.00

SECOND DRAFT OF THE INTERIM ARRANGEMENT CHARTER WAS PRESENTED. DRAFT FOLLOWS

World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers Interim Arrangement 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 mother and source of all life; and committing themselves to sustain fisheries and aquatic resources for future generations, protect their livelihoods and secure priority access for the small-scale, artisanal, traditional and indigenous peoples and fishers.

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 resources as a collective heritage 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 harvesters and fishworkers' 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 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. 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 :

- 1 Subsistence fishers
- 1 Artisanal fishers
- 1 Aboriginal or indigenous peoples who are sea-harvesters
- 1 Traditional coastal fishers
- 1 Independent small and medium boat owner-operators who hire their own crew
- 1 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 distribution of 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 be representative of 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.

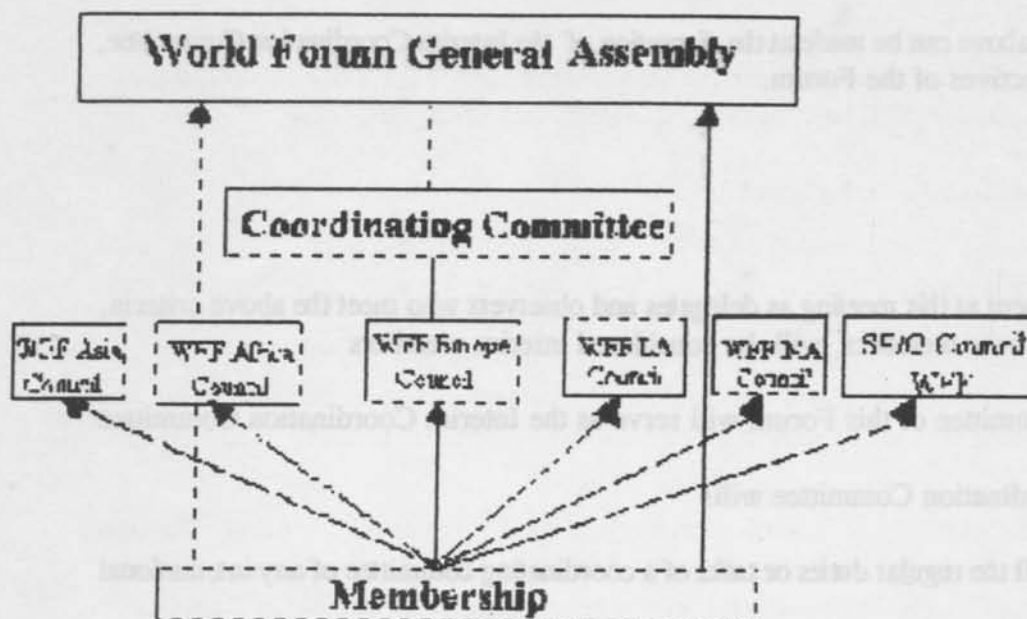
III. Structure

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, 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.

World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers Action Plan

1. **Organize a World Fishing Day with Regional and/or national campaigns to mark it**
2. **Declare a World Fishing Strike-a day of rest for fish stocks-on 21 November 1998 to demand a ban on factory trawlers**

Rapporteurs, drafters, translators, those who saw to the photocopying and distribution of the

document are thanked. They worked very hard and finished the work by sitting through out the night without sleep.

It is clarified that the Interim Arrangement for the Operation of the WFF and the Action Plan are two separate documents and will be read out and commented upon separately.

Document on Interim Arrangement is read out.

Delegate from Argentina makes a speech about lack of democracy. They totally disagree with the Interim Arrangement Charter from A to Z. The Argentinian delegates walk out. They represent ITF and belong to big Industrial fleets. Mandla Gxanyana (South Africa): This is not the final version of the document, it is a draft version. The final constitution will have to be circulated among the organisations present here over the following years and endorsed before it can be adopted.

Humberto Mella (Chile): I regret very much what has happened with the Argentinians. We also agree with them over some things. But that does not mean that Latin America has to distance itself from the struggle of the fish harvesters and fishworkers. All we ask this Forum is that Latin America be allowed to elect its own representative to the Co-ordination Committee. In life you don't always get what you want, and this Forum does after all represent the small fish harvesters and fishworkers of the world.

Andre Le Berre (France): The French speaking group (of French, French Canadian and Senegalese) is happy to see their suggestions taken into account and are happy with the text. We only want the words (in Section IV. 2.) "membership fee" to be replaced by annual membership fee so that it is clear that it is to be paid annually and not just once.

Angela Sanfilippo (USA): This is a good document. But I have one request -that Fr Thomas Kocherry be elected the Coordinator of the WFF.

Barbara Stickel (USA): Canada and India have more delegates here than other countries. So there will be an imbalance as all of them are given membership.

Earle McCurdy: All these participants from Canada and India are not all delegates. Most of them are observers. They belong to only two organisations: the CCPFH in Canada and the NFF in India. So only one organisation from each of the two countries will be given membership to the WFF.

Arthur Bogason (Iceland): 1. There is a paradox between objective no. 1 and action plan no. 2. The action plan should call for a ban on all destructive fishing activities, not just factory trawlers. 2. There is an objective that I would like to see here: increased cooperation between scientists and fisherpeople.

3. The interim coordination committee should be expanded to have two members per continent.

Mohammed Saeed (Pakistan): In Pakistan we are trying to organise fishermen and want the support of the WFF. This is a good set of objectives. It will save the fishing communities, their territory and their livelihood.

Jesuretinam Christy (India): Part II.1.B. should state "destructive industrial aquaculture" rather than "intensive industrial aquaculture" because even semi-intensive forms can be disastrous.

Participant from Sri Lanka: We would like to call on our Argentinian friends to reconsider and return to our fold. Our organization is for small fisherpeople-not for individual fisheries. We have two proposals from Sri Lanka:

1. There is a territorial problem caused by the UNCLOS. Indian and Sri Lankan (and Bangladeshi and Pakistani) fishermen keep straying into each others waters and getting arrested. So the World Forum should call upon the concerned governments-to free immediately the innocent fishers suffering due to this demarcation.

2. In Sri Lanka we have an unwanted battle raging. It is affecting all of us. We want this August assembly to call on the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE to come to the negotiating table and end the destruction.

Participant from Pakistan: We too want the issue of the detained fishermen to be included in today's press conference and in the petition from the Rally.

Participant from Andhra Pradesh, India: In Objective 5, we would like to see the term "fish habitats" be followed by "for e.g., mangroves", since these are very severely threatened in all our areas.

Barbara Stickel (USA): In Objective 5, we would like to see added as examples of threats the overexploitation of oil and gas and the use of oceans as dumping grounds for waste of all kinds.

Sebastian Mathew (ICSF):

1. In the Preamble the use of "sea as mother" suggests incest and is vague. Why not just "sea as source of all life"?

2. In objectives 6 and 7, which call for the protection of the rights of fishing communities to their customary territories for habitation and fishing, it is important to add the words "under their national jurisdiction" because there are some cases where fishing vessels belonging to one country have for years been fishing in waters belonging to another, and this is not necessarily the situation we want to protect.

3. In Part II.1.A.i., the explanation for fish harvester should be "anyone directly engaged in fishing, that include:" rather than the present "known in different countries as", because the latter suggests that you can't have more than one of these in one country, whereas of course you can have both subsistence fishers and aboriginal peoples who are sea harvesters and independent boat owner-operators etc. in the same country.

4. Part II.2.B. would be clearer if stated as:

"Each country should preferably be represented in the Forum by one organisation"

Nalini Nayak (India): We had said this in our group but don't see this in the document. Part II.1.A.iv. should specify that these fishworkers should be "non-traders", in order to make clear

that merchants cannot be considered members.

Other suggestions: In the Preamble, the term "priority access" should be replaced by "preferential access". Also, that last part should read "secure preferential access for the small and medium scale, artisanal and traditional fishers, and indigenous peoples, to coastal resources on which they have historically depended".

Nalini Nayak (India): This may be a problem if it is read as a limiting clause, and interpreted to mean that these named categories should have access only to the resources on which they have historically depended. It may mean that they are prevented from exploring new areas, such as the deep seas.

Earle McCurdy: The clause cannot be read in that way.

Andrew Johnston (South Africa): The terms in the section on membership need to be defined. We have a problem with the term "fishing community" because in South Africa those that were traditionally fishing communities have been displaced from the coast and other well-off communities have been settled there.

Vincent (India): What is to be the modus operandi of the Interim Coordination Committee (ICC)? How is to be coordinated? Also, the southern countries should have greater representation in the ICC since they are the most affected.

Harekrishna Debnath (India): I second the above question and suggest that an interim coordinator be elected at this meeting.

Participants from Pakistan, Latin America and French groups express agreement with this suggestion.

Earle McCurdy: There seems to be a consensus on this. We will have to add a fourth part to Part III. Interim Structure, saying that **"The Interim Committee shall have a General coordinator elected by this General Assembly"**. The election will have to wait until the document is passed.

Torleif Paasche (Norway): I had hoped for an agreement that would be acceptable to my members. But I cannot agree with the wording in the Preamble about "preferential access" to certain categories.

Claudio Nizama Silva (Peru): The Latin American group feels strongly about a recommendation that they had made in their group report. In Objective 4 it is important to state that the resource is "a collective heritage of fishing communities", rather than just "a collective heritage". The latter wording would allow those from outside the community, such as big business interests, to come in and exploit it.

Mandla Gxanyana (South Africa): We cannot agree to this. In South Africa we believe strongly that the resources belong to the entire nation, but it is for the fishing communities to manage them.

Earle McCurdy: I suggest that the Latin American and the South African groups meet outside, along with a member of the drafting committee, and work out a compromise acceptable to them

both.

Finally accepted wording: "the common heritage of humanity". This is in order that it is read in its widest sense, not just for the nation, but also so that it is recognised that this means it has to be managed with care for the future.

At 12.45 p.m. the Chairs call a close to the amendments.

Christine Hunt (Canada): I propose that the amended document on an Interim Arrangement for the Operation of the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers be adopted.

Barbara Stickel (USA): I second this.

The Chairs clarify that only delegates can vote.

Torleif Paasche (Norway): I cannot vote for this document without consulting my members.

Decision 1.

The following Interim Arrangement Charter was unanimously adopted.

The document is adopted with three (3) abstentions and no votes against it.

Election of a General Coordinator

Nominations are taken.

1. Thomas Kocherry

Proposed: Barbara Stickel (USA)

Seconded: Tarun Kumar Patnaik (India)

Seconded by Mohammad Ali Shah, Pakistan

Decision 2

Thomas Kocherry unanimously elected as the General Coordinator.

Humberto Mella (Chile) and Mohammed Ali Shah (Pakistan) Angela Sanfillipo congratulates Thomas Kocherry and pledge all cooperation.

Thomas Kocherry: I should thank you for electing me as Coordinator. But it is also a great responsibility. So far we have only agreed on words. We need also to agree on actions. So let us go on to discuss the Action Plan.

Arthur Bogason (Iceland): I think you will do the job well as you seem to be an honest and decent man. But I cannot agree with the Action Plan -it seems to be based on a Greenpeace slogan. I do not want opposition to factory trawling alone, but to all destructive fishing gears.

Earle McCurdy: I'd like to suggest an amendment that is based on trying to reflect the realities in different countries. A strike is not going to work in every country. I propose that Action Plan 1. read ? Organise a World Fisheries Solidarity Day, with regional and /or national campaigns to mark it, and this take place on November 21, 1998.

Participant from France: We have just emerged from two years of strikes and we will not be able to support a strike again next year -it is too soon.

Harekrishna Debnath (India): I support Earle's proposal but want to add that this World Fisheries Solidarity Day be held under the banner of the WFF everywhere.

Sebastian Mathew (ICSF): Rather than opposing "destructive fishing practices", it would be better to be more specific and say "destructive fishing gears", or even to list the destructive gears, because any fishing practice after a point can be destructive.

Earle McCurdy: What we propose should be specifically defined by each country in keeping with the objectives of the WFF, and relevant there. For instance, in a number of northern countries, a great threat is the privatisation of common property resources, and the campaign could be used to oppose that.

Decision 3

Finally 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 celebrate World Fisheries Day. The first "World Fisheries Day" would be on 21st November 1998.

Decision 4

It was decided to make the Steering Committee into the Coordination Committee. The members are the following--

Latin America : Silvia Gonzalez Sanchez, Mexico

Africa : Dao Gaye, Senegal

North America : Pietro Parravano, USA

Asia : Charles Caprichio, Phillipines

Europe : Arthur Bogason, Iceland.

Francois Poulin , Canada

Earle McCurdy, Canada

Thomas Kocherry, India

Harekrishna Debnath, India

The following resolutions were passed.

Resolutions-

1-Human Rights of Fishworkers in South Asia

We, the undersigned, representatives of fishworkers organisations 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 life 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 is

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Each day, the life 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 is

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 mechanised boats are caught, penalised 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 pressurised 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 jeopardised. The Indian Chapter of the SALF organised 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 organisations also met the jailed Indian fishworkers.

Primarily, due to the joint efforts of the Pakistani and Indian labour organisations, 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 un-intended 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

- ! 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 organisations and trade unions in all regional bodies set up with the above objectives.

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 (peche et Developpement 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 being used to but access for the ling 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 ling 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 organisations Peche et Developpement 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 Agreement

3. Proposed by the Sri Lankan delegation and the Asian Group

This August assembly of the 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 arm 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.

Latin America Announces

We have received information that the decree-law 161 has just been subscribed in Chile. This law officially authorizes and recognizes the legal existence of the cove and small-scale fish-harvesters coastal settlements. This is the result of a long and intense historic struggle of 60 thousand fish-harvesters through CONAPACH. We feel that this Forum should make this fact public, in order that the government understands that we supported by fish-harvesters from all over the world in a common battle. In that way, the Decree which has been signed will be put into practice. This is a historic fight and most strongly felt in Chile where 60 thousand people are affected. We would like to use this opportunity to announce our victory in our Supreme Court case against the largest factory trawler of the world, the American Monarch, from Norway.

Brazil sends its good wishes and confirms its commitment to the Forum and to the permanent conference of the organizations of Latin America. MONAPE shows its regrets about not being present with us at this historic event.

Final Interim Arrangement Charter for the Operation of the World Forum of Fish harvesters and Fishworkers

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 sources 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 harvesters and fishworkers' 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, 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 :
 - l Subsistence fishers
 - l Artisanal fishers
 - l Aboriginal or indigenous peoples who are sea-harvesters
 - l Traditional coastal fishers
 - l Independent small and medium boat owner-operators who hire their own crew
 - l 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 distribution of 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 be representative of 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

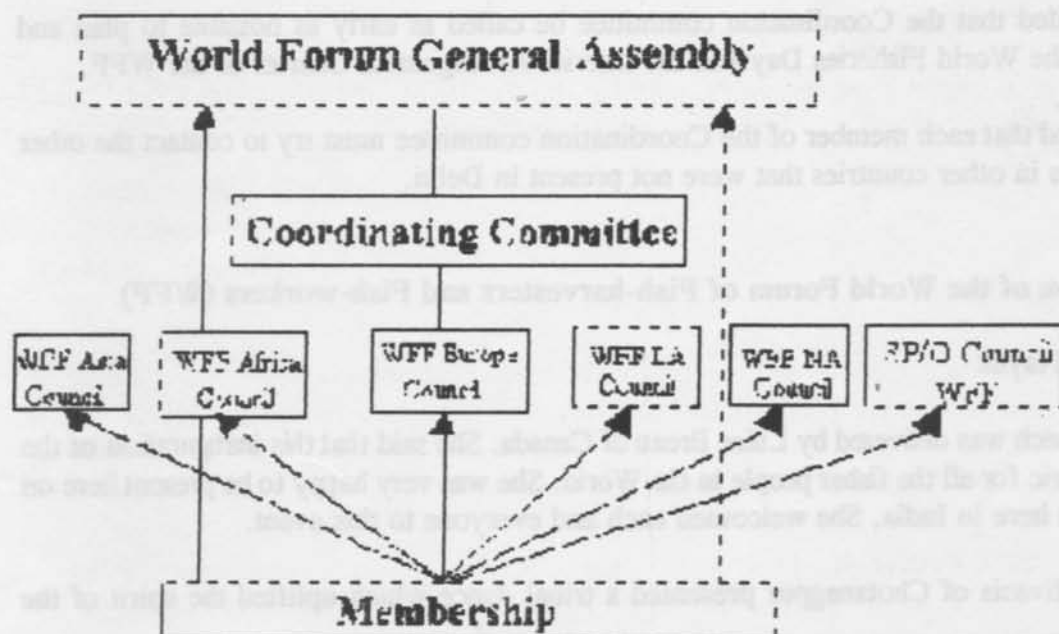
Interim Structure

- 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, 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.

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 be invited as a member to the Coordination committee of the WFF.

Decision B.

It was decided that Francois 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 organisations in other countries that were not present in Delhi.

Inauguration of the World Forum of Fish-harvesters and Fish-workers (WFF)

MC: Nalini Nayak

Welcome speech was delivered by Luice Breau of Canada. She said that this inauguration of the WFF is historic for all the fisher people in the World. She was very happy to be present here on this occasion here in India. She welcomed each and everyone to this event.

Then the Adivasis of Chotanagpur presented a tribal dance which uplifted the spirit of the programme.

Then the newly elected General Co-ordinator of the WFF formally inaugurated the WFF. He said that the victims of Globalization from all over the world have gathered here to tell the world that we have a right to exist. The fishing community is unambiguously telling the world that they are not going to lie low. They have a right to exist. They are not going to allow the fish resources to

be depleted. They are not going to allow the sea to be polluted. The fisher people are the custodians of the sea and the fish resource. In this all the fisher people all over the world are united.

Angela San Filippo of the USA declared that the fisherpeople in the USA are one with the fisher people all over the world. In the USA they are victims of globalization. Everybody thinks that all the people in the USA are very well off. This is not true. We are suffering like the fisher people in India. Let us fight together to preserve our fishing communities all over the world.

Silvia Gonzalez Sanchez of Mexico said that the fisher people in Mexico extend full support and co-operation to the WFF.

Arthur Bogason was very happy to be present in this great event. The fisher people from all over the World have gathered here. Sometimes they did not communicate, because they did not know the language. But he learned one word from Dao of Senegal- to call friend. They communicated with sign language. It is this unity of the fisher people is our strength. He is coming from Iceland, which is a small country but their backbone is fishery. They have to depend on this for their livelihood. They cannot allow this to be destroyed by anybody.

Once again the entire group sang the Theme Song in gusto.

Harekrishna Debnath of India thanked each and everyone. Before he did the same he stated that the WFF is not the creation of a few leaders but it is the long standing aspiration of 120 million fisher people in the world. This is a dream of the fisher people of all over the world becoming a reality in our midst. Though there are 7 seas, it is infact only one. Like this though fisher people of the world have different nationalities, they are one. And the WFF is the uniting base for all the fisher people in the world.

He started with thanking Francois Poulin under whose stewardship, the Canadian Council organised the dialogue in Quebec. This led to the culmination of the formation of the WFF. The persistent and the co-ordinated efforts of the Canadian council of Professional Fish-harvesters and the National Fish- workers Forum of India steered the mission to its goal. In the name of all the fisher people in the world he thanked each and every one on both the organizations for their selfless contribution. Then he thanked each and every one who financially supported to meet the expenses both the boarding and lodging and the travel expenses.

He thanked the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs, Govt. of India, Shri Indrajit Gupta for delivering the inaugural address of the WFF meet. His speech gave the direction to the entire proceedings.

He particularly thanked the Maharashtra and the Chotnagpur dancing groups which upheld the fisher peoples culture and identity. It really moved the participants to dance and clap with the rhythm of the movements, which set the tone of the whole congregation of the fisher peoples mass based organizations in the world. He thanked Motiram Bhawe, Dr. Cecil and Phulkeria Minz for organizing the dancing groups.

He thanked each and every participant particularly the leaders of different mass based fisher peoples organizations for taking the trouble and hardships to come to India to become part of

the WFF. He remembered in particular the contribution of each one to arrive at a common understanding to work out the interim arrangement charter. It is a challenge to each one present to make this charter a reality within the coming three years. He named all the resource persons and thanked each one for their invaluable presentations. He thanked translators, reporters and the drafting committee members for their contributions with sleepless nights. He thanked Robin and the team of youngsters for receiving each delegate at the airport and railway station. The volunteers team led by Prakash, Prasad, Ashok Sharma, Philomin Mary have been working day and night in a quite manner to make the WFF event to happen. It is this silent work he remembered in gratitude.

The exposure programme in Mumbai was wonderful experience for all those who participated in it. One delegate described the most memorable event in his life. He thanked Xavier Pinto and R.K. Patil for organising this programme. He also thanked the fisherpeople in Uttan, Varsova and Colaba for making this exposure a memorable one. Their generosity is noticed by everyone. He was sorry that the delegates were not able to reach Colaba.

He thanked Indian Social Institute, Delhi Forum, Centre for Education & Communication, The Other Media, Sadvabhana, CRI and Sr. Fatima for accommodating everyone and supporting the event in so many different ways which is incalculable. He also thanked the press and media persons.

There has been so many committees to prepare for the WFF meet. They have been working day and night to make this event a success. He thanked each committee for their contribution. He particularly Anindita Chakrabarti & others for the WFF office keep going.

Finally he thanked Thomas Kocherry for being the catalyst in the whole process of the WFF to happen and congratulated on his election as the General Coordinator of the WFF. He wished and prayed that the 120 million fisherpeople of the world would be led to the 21st century with dignity and identity under his revolutionary leadership.

The inaugural ceremony was concluded by 6.45 p.m. by shouting slogans led by Harekrishna Debnath. The participants then went to Jantar Mantar and took out a torch light procession to the Parliament House to submit a memorandum to the Prime Minister. The memorandum follows:

March to the Parliament and presentation of Memorandum to the Prime Minister.

Shri I.K. Gujral
Hon. Prime Minister of India
Parliament House
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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 India 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 been given great hope by the landmark judgment 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)

22nd November 1997

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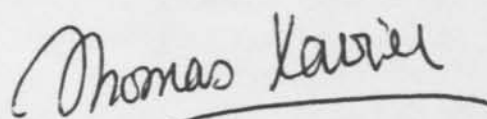
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5. Email : _____
6. Name & address of the two 1) _____
leaders of the organisation _____
including telephone, fax, email _____

2) _____

7. We agree with the Interim Arrangement Charter and other decisions of the WFF meeting held in Delhi, India from 17-21 November 1997. We agree to collaborate with the WFF.

Date: _____

Name & Signatures

NB: Please send this copy to Thomas Kocherry, General Coordinator, World Forum of Fish-harvesters and Fishworkers, Chenureshmi Center, Valiathura P.O., Thiruvananthapuram - 695008, Kerala, India.

AGREEMENT FORM

1. Name of the Organisation : _____

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Date: _____

Name & Signatures

Please send this copy to Mr. Francois Poulin, Assistant Coordinator of WFF, Canadian Council of Professional Fish Harvesters, 71, Bank, Suite 700, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5N2, CANADA.

A global forum of fishworkers

Fisherfolk from different parts of the world have formed a coalition to articulate issues concerning their livelihood and the need to preserve world fish resources.

T. K. RAJALAKSHMI
in New Delhi

AN international body of fish harvesters and fishworkers was formed at the end of a meeting in New Delhi to articulate the livelihood issues of fisherfolk in different parts of the world. Also on the agenda of the organisation is the question of preserving world fish resources through conservation and by new systems of management.

At the meeting, 150 fish harvesters and fishworkers from 32 countries recorded their protest against the depletion of valuable marine resources and the pollution of water bodies by big commercial and industrial fishing fleets at the cost of small and artisanal fisherfolk.

This meeting was a response to a symposium on food security held by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Quebec in October 1995. As that symposium had not put fishing on its agenda, fishers' organisations from four

continents felt that the debate and concern on community management of resources would be meaningless without the participation of fish harvesters and fish workers. The global forum formed at the New Delhi meeting intends to deal with the problem politically as well.

The Canadian Council of Professional Fish Harvesters, which took the initiative for such a forum in Quebec in 1995, joined hands with the National Fishworkers Forum (India) to organise the New Delhi meeting. Thomas Kocherry, former chairman of the NFF(India), was elected the international forum's general coordinator. Kocherry, a well-known campaigner for traditional fisherfolk's rights, was in the news recently for rejecting the \$150,000 (Rs.60 lakhs) Pew Award Fellowship on marine conservation. Kocherry told *Frontline* that the award was instituted by the owners of the Sun Oil Company in the United States, which has been criticised for being a polluter. "It would have been ethically

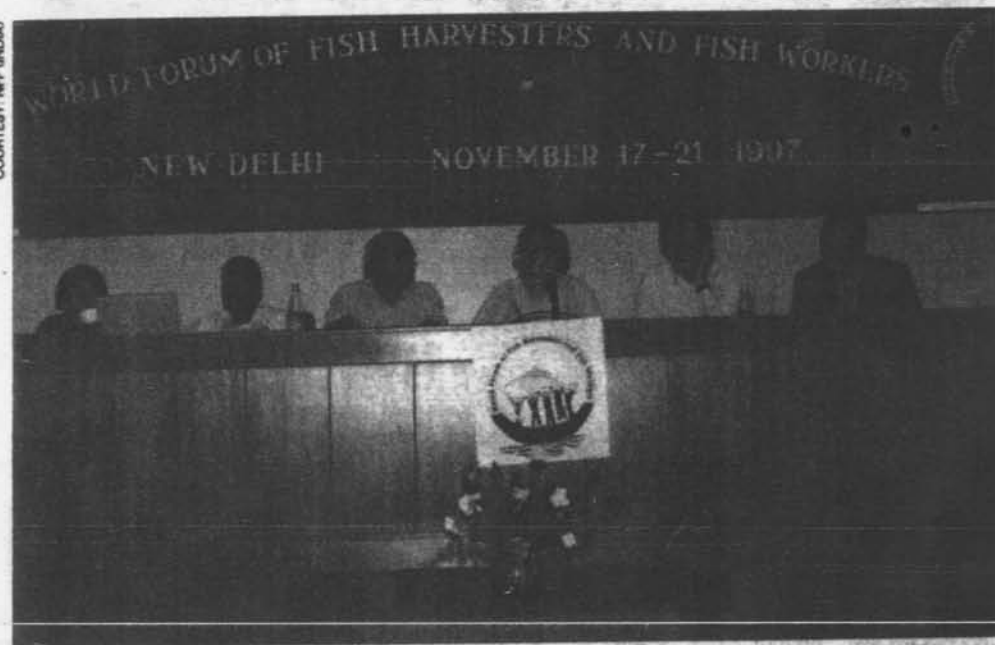
and morally impossible for us to accept the award," he said.

The significant aspect of the new coalition of fisherfolk is that there are issues common to fisherfolk all over the world, although they come from countries that are economically and culturally disparate. At the meeting were delegates from Asian, African, European, Latin American and North American countries and a Maori representative from New Zealand. The papers that were presented at the meeting emphasised the need for fisherfolk to join hands against the ravaging influence of industrial fishing and forms of aquaculture. Participants in the world forum resolved to protect, defend and strengthen communities that are dependent on fisheries for their livelihood. The forum also resolved to protect and enhance the role of women in the fishing economy; to protect fish resources and habitats such as mangroves from both land and sea-based threats; to promote a legal regime that will bring the tradition-

al and customary rights of fishing communities under the national jurisdictions; to promote equitable representation of fish harvesters' and fishworkers' organisations in all appropriate regional and world forums; to ensure compliance by states and transnational corporations with international agreements; and to oppose any trade agreements that threaten the livelihood of fishers.

Peter K. Weber, Professor of Geography at the University of California at Berkeley, in a paper presented at the meeting, says that the fishing industry is in a bind between limited stocks and excessive fishing capacity. Caught in

COURTESY NFF (INDIA)



Delegates at the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers in New Delhi. Third from left is Thomas Kocherry, former chairman of the National Fishworkers Forum (India), who has been elected general coordinator of the international forum.

ICSE
FOR DIGITISATION
DATE: 11/15/2011



Fishing in Pulicat lake. According to the Worldwide Fund for Nature, 100 million people in developing countries depend on fisheries for their livelihood.

the squeeze are the fishing communities that have long relied on fishing as a source of food and income. While the fishing industry accounts for only a fraction of global economic activity, fishing is the mainstay of employment and income for coastal and island people. Worldwide, it is estimated that 120 million people are employed in fishery-related jobs, of which 15-20 million are actually fishing. Most of these fishing jobs are in the small-scale fishing sector. For communities that rely on locally caught fish, Weber says, reduction in food security is due to decreased fishing opportunities for local fish harvesters and also due to cut in the community's purchasing power to buy or trade for food from outside sources.

According to the Worldwide Fund for Nature, 100 million people in developing countries depend on fisheries for their livelihood. Fish is an important source of animal protein for Asians, Africans and Latin Americans. In South-East Asia alone, there are 5 million people entirely dependent on fishing for their livelihood. Also, small-scale fish harvesters account for 50 per cent of the world's fish production. However, according to FAO figures, 44 per cent of the stocks in marine fisheries are exploited intensely or fully, 16 per cent are overfished, 6 per cent are depleted and 3 per cent are slowly recovering. The eastern

and western regions of the Indian Ocean are the only major fishing grounds that have not reached their limits. It is estimated that about 25,000 vessels from countries such as South Korea, Japan, Thailand, Taiwan, Russia, the United States and also countries of the European Community have targeted traditional waters in the developing countries.

John Kurien, Associate Fellow at the Centre For Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, says that the promotion of industrial fisheries and aquaculture in developing Asian countries was undertaken as part of the structural adjustment programme. In a paper presented at the International Conference on Globalisation, Food Security and Systematic Agriculture in New Delhi last year, he said that industrial aquaculture and fisheries were sustained by the demand for protein by health-conscious people and also by the demand for pet food and animal feeds.

Another feature of industrial aquaculture is that the ownership is in the hands of local and national elite as well as multinational investors who are independent of people traditionally involved in fisheries. Kurien said that industrial aquaculture and fisheries, by the very nature of their activity, displaced those involved in small-scale, domestically oriented food production. Paddy land has been used for

shrimp farming and later, following the decline in shrimp productivity, it has been abandoned and the land left in a condition that is unfit for paddy cultivation.

The country reports of Pakistan, Sri Lanka, France and South Africa, among others, expressed concern about depleting fish stocks. Four organisations from Pakistan stated in their report that after 1977, trawlers from foreign countries have been given licences for fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone. These trawlers often damage and destroy the nets and boats of traditional fisherfolk. The annual average catch per vessel, the report said, had decreased by 70 per cent.

The Sri Lankan paper, presented by Lucas Fernando of the National Union of Fishermen, highlighted how traditional fishermen had lost their independent professional status and are now working on big mechanised boats owned by fishing companies and investors.

The French Artisanal Fishers' Delegation said that it was opposed to the development of industrial aquaculture. The delegation protested at its exclusion from the Common Fisheries Policy of the European Union, especially when the large majority of fishers in France are of the artisanal type.

The South African delegation representing informal fishing communities lamented that despite a non-apartheid government, the fishing industry in South Africa continued to be seen as an investment sector with little concern for ecological and social issues. It said the South African Government's White Paper on Fisheries had ignored the rights of small fisherfolk who were victims of the former apartheid regime.

Foreign delegates joined members of the Indian delegation on a march to Parliament and to submit a memorandum to the Prime Minister demanding the non-passage of the Aquaculture Authority Bill. The Bill, which was introduced early this year, intends to do away with restrictions on shrimp aquaculture in the Coastal Regulation Zone. ■