

CLOSING REMARKS

P.M. Roedel *Co-Chairman*

We are now at the end of this two-day conference on small-scale fisheries. When the Conference opened, I think Frank Williams and I both expressed the hope that all of us, conveners and participants alike, could leave here with a sense of accomplishment and with the knowledge that we had in fact reached our stated goal. We suggested yesterday that, as co-chairmen, what we hoped for was your collective judgement as to the opportunities for small-scale fisheries development in the Caribbean, the nature of the problems that need to be solved, priorities, and suggestions for institutions both public and private which might contribute to this end.

Thanks to the excellent job done by everybody, the principal speakers in setting the tone of the meeting, the Evaluation Teams, who have given us such excellent reports this afternoon despite very severe time limitations, and now by our Conference Summarizer, there really isn't much more to say. I had listed several items earlier in the day that I wanted to mention if they did not come out in the remarks of the Summarizer or the team reports, but I think most of the things I had in mind have either been said or implied. Let me mention several of them just to re-emphasize what I regard as their importance in the scheme of things. One is the point that Dr. Storer brought up last; that is the potential for GCFI developing into a much stronger and more useful entity in Caribbean fisheries affairs. This in no way negates the importance of the role of governmental and international organizations, but it does seem to me that a private group with strong academic ties can do many things which the public sector can not; as I said earlier, I would endorse Dr. Storer's hope that GCFI becomes that organization in this part of the world.

I think that perhaps the overriding concept that came through to me, so far as small-scale fisheries development is concerned, is something that Dr. Storer discussed at some length and which was alluded to in several of the reports of the Evaluation Teams. That is a need for an integrated interdisciplinary approach with attention to all aspects of the problem from broad scale conceptualization down to the micro-level "doer" projects on the beach. The key word in my thinking is "integrated"; further there must indeed be a continuum of effort. This runs from stock assessment at one end of the spectrum to ultimate consumption or non-consumption of the product at the other end, and obviously requires contributions from a wide variety of social, political, biological, and physical scientists. Continuity also means assuring for the future an adequate cadre of fisheries scientists, administrators and paraprofessionals trained through appropriate educational programs, all this coupled with viable extension networks. Too many times we have seen good programs put into operation and be quite successful until the expatriate experts left. Then within a few years the programs fell apart completely because nobody had provided for training of people at the local level to carry on the work. This is a mistake which I think every bilateral or a multilateral donor agency has made.

The final point I would like to emphasize or re-emphasize is the nature of the impact of extended jurisdiction on fisheries. It seems certain to me that the best

conceived marine fisheries programs and conservation measures can not in most cases succeed without recognition of, and accommodation to, the realities of extended jurisdiction and the national responsibilities inherent with the exclusive economic zones. This, of course, is a particularly critical problem in the Caribbean.

Finally, on a more personal note, and also on behalf of the Agency for International Development, I can say that I believe this Conference has far surpassed the perhaps too modest hopes the Agency had for it. It has certainly been most useful to me, and I hope it has been equally useful to you. The ideas that have been expressed here are going to be extremely valuable to AID in its fisheries planning efforts not just in the Caribbean, but throughout the developing world. Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to all of you for your excellent help and participation.

F. Williams *Co-Chairman*

I am not going to repeat remarks made previously, as I think the most important of them were made in a cogent manner. At this time though, I must comment on two things arising from our deliberations.

First, I believe we have achieved at least one thing that is extremely useful to us all. We, and here I am talking as a member of the Steering Committee, posed several questions and we invited groups of you to sit down together to discuss them last evening and again this morning. I do not mean to be disparaging about the written statements you have produced, but I believe that the opportunities you had to fully discuss problems relating to the development of small-scale fisheries in the region were probably more valuable than anything else at this Conference. You have got to know each other and you have got to know each other's problems, and that goes a long way to finding the solutions to those problems. Certainly, GCFI is not going to miss the opportunity to use the working group approach at future meetings. Secondly, I would say to you, we hear the messages that have been coming from the Evaluation Teams. There are some very significant questions you have posed, and comments you have made. Those of us on the Board of Directors of the Institute will try to answer those questions and utilize the ideas that you have advanced at this Conference.

I wish to close this Conference with some very special thanks to several groups of people. Firstly, for many of us, thanks go to the United States Agency for International Development and to the University of Miami for their financial support of this two-day Conference. Secondly, grateful thanks go to our good colleagues Rafael Espinosa Gray, President of Vikingos de Colombia, and especially to Sergio Martinez of Vikingos, who was the Chairman of the local organizing committee, for the outstanding job that they and others at Vikingos have done to make this such a successful meeting. Thirdly, I offer my own thanks to our travel agencies in Cartagena and Miami and to our local secretarial staff. This is also an appropriate time to express our appreciation for the work of two of my own Miami staff, Norka Munilla and Jane Palmer; they have done a very fine job over the last few months and even though these last two days you have bombarded them with questions regarding pesos and per diem I think you will

go away satisfied. Fourthly, we certainly could not have achieved anything without the excellent service of our interpreters Juanita de Durana and Margarita de Fischer, and Sr. Pedro, of Philips, Bogota who is responsible for the audio record of the Conference. Fifthly, the Steering Committee wishes to thank the invited speakers, the evaluation team leaders, and you, the participants in this meeting, which I believe has been most successful. Finally, on behalf of myself, Phil Roedel and all of you, I would like to say to our local friends, Cartageneros in all walks of life, we have thoroughly enjoyed your hospitality and welcome to the historic city of Cartagena and offer our sincere thanis. With that the Conference on the Development of Small-Scale Fisheries in the Caribbean Region is adjourned and at this time I will hand the general GCFI meeting back to our local Chairman Sergio Martinez.