

## **Report of the Evaluation Team on the Caribbean and International Session**

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The team considers that the most important topics discussed in this session were those relating to the extension of exclusive fisheries zones. The case of Bermuda was particularly interesting and seems to suggest that island states should extend their limits and then try to take steps to manage their fisheries in one way or another.

The granting of licenses to other countries on relatively easy terms if the coastal state itself is not capable of exploiting the resources of its extended zone would also seem to be appropriate, provided that suitable conditions are attached. These might relate to the training of local crews aboard the foreign boats and to the provision of adequate data about the vessels' fishing activities. At a convenient stage, a further condition might be made to process at least part of the catch in the coastal state.

Apart from the fact that licensing does bring an income which would otherwise be lost to the coastal state, the extension of exclusive fishing zones in this way seems to have a catalytic effect. In particular, a government may well decide that as the sector has now become a new source of income it is more deserving of support.

WECAF policy which might have fairly general implications is that adopted by some Central American states by which the production from artisanal fisheries is earmarked for the local market while the offshore fisheries are developed with a view to export possibilities.

It seems that in many cases politicians are just beginning to think seriously about the sea and the opportunities it offers for creating wealth and employment. It is important that every opportunity be taken to bring top fisheries administrators together to discuss the problems and possibilities of fisheries development and management.

The particular problems of many of the small island nations of the Caribbean should not be understated. Because of their size and geographical location, the extension of their exclusive fisheries zones raises special problems. Ideally, it would seem to make sense, for instance, if the Leeward and Windward Islands could work together and have a common policy for the management of the resources that exist in the area that would be covered by an extension of their zones, but the practical difficulties of achieving this goal are very considerable. By working together, neighboring states could perhaps achieve more effective policing of their zones than would be possible alone and, at a later date, might also develop policies for the joint exploitation of the resources.

In the meantime, it is important that the international organizations continue to provide the necessary training which is essential if developing

countries are to obtain the full benefits from their fishery resources. Such training must be organized to take account of the special features that exist in the Western Central Atlantic area. At the same time, it must be pointed out that unless governments make a firm commitment to provide continuing support to fisheries development, so that when people are trained they have the necessary conditions to make good use of their knowledge, little real progress will be made.

Finally, it is clear that there is still a lack of coordination among the various institutions and organizations working in fisheries development in the region. This is an oft-stated problem and it is considered that the GCFI might try to arrange a seminar to review common managerial and scientific problems which could lead to more coordinated action in the future. Next year's meeting, for instance, has plans to include a seminar specifically on the management of the spiny lobster resources. This format might then be adopted as a model for future GCFI meetings.