

U. S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
TRIP REPORT  
EVALUATION OF OCEAN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT NEEDS  
IN NIGERIA, SENEGAL AND MAURITANIA

6-20 APRIL 1980

By Philip M. Roedel, Senior Fisheries Advisor

PURPOSE

The purpose of this trip was (1) to make a general evaluation of the needs of Nigeria, Senegal and Mauritania for technical assistance associated with ocean fisheries management and development in their zones of extended jurisdiction, and (2) to recommend a course of action for the United States.

SUMMARY

This trip was a partial response to a suggestion made last January by the U.S. Ambassador to Senegal, Herman J. Cchen. The fisheries situation turned out to be essentially the same in all three countries, differences being only of degree.

The immediate concern, especially in Mauritania, is for assistance in setting up effective means of enforcement and surveillance within the zones. AID has provided a much-appreciated quick response through its contract with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The major long-range need is for help in devising and conducting resource surveys and in developing appropriate means for stock assessment in tropical waters. The Fisheries Division had already identified this as a significant problem and has in mind several possible approaches.

Thirdly, there is a tremendous need for training of fisheries cadres, both scientific and managerial, to cope with the problems of zone administration. Some of the need can be met by seconding U.S. fisheries people for short-term assignments. Much of it can be met only by longer-range training of carefully selected individuals overseas.

The U.S. has a unique opportunity to capitalize on its professional fisheries capabilities to render a significant service to developing countries in West Africa as well as elsewhere in the world.

### BACKGROUND

In January of this year Ambassador Cohen, dispatched an extremely thoroughful telegram (Dakar 106) to Washington which was copied to all our embassies in West Africa. The telegram dealt with the problems of fisheries management off the West African coast and suggested that the time was ripe for the U.S. to consider whether it could offer technical assistance that might help resolve some of the problems. Ambassador Cohen took particular note of the need for enforcement and surveillance and of the need for better estimates of the magnitude of the available resource.

The comments on this telegram were most positive, and, fortunately, it proved possible for AID to take some immediate steps in response. Quite coincidentally, an experienced National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) enforcement agent, Perry Allen, was spending several weeks in Guinea-Bissau assisting that nation develop an operational plan for enforcement. He was able to extend his itinerary to include stops in Senegal, Mauritania and Morocco for discussions of surveillance needs. He returns to both Guinea-Bissau and Mauritania in May-June 1980 for further work. This practical, much-appreciated assistance is being provided at a low cost (Mr. Allen's salary and expenses) split between NMFS (salary) and AID (expenses).

Equally coincidentally, Richard Neal, NMFS aquaculture expert on detail to AID, was in Guinea-Bissau at the same time as Allen and later visited Cape Verde. He was able to discuss general needs in fisheries which reemphasized the importance of the problems discussed by Ambassador Cohen. My trip came as an additional response to the Cohen initiative. It further reinforced the Ambassador's thesis, and, taking into account the Allen and Neal trips as well as other earlier visits and initiatives, leads me to certain recommendations. These concern surveillance and resource assessment principally (each of which is a large topic) but should not be construed as implying there are no other subjects in which U.S. technical assistance would be useful. These recommendations are designed to respond to Ambassador Cohen, and to the needs expressed by the developing world in various fora, as well as to complement the new FAO initiative dealing with the development and management of fisheries in exclusive economic zones.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### General:

The U.S. should implement a major fisheries assistance program concerned with the impact of extended jurisdiction zones on fisheries in the developing world, as has been recommended by the fisheries advisors to AID. While the problem is global, great opportunities exist in West Africa that could well be handled on a regional basis. This program should consist of two principal parts, one dealing with surveillance and enforcement and the other with resource surveys and stock assessment. Training should be a major component of each project, and training needs outside the specific scope of the program should also be addressed.

Developing such a program will require a concentrated (but short-term) planning effort involving fisheries experts from AID, NMFS and the State Department. High-level support from each agency is a prerequisite to success.

With respect to enforcement and surveillance:

1. The U.S. should continue to provide ad hoc assistance on request to nations having problems in establishing systems for surveillance of fisheries activities in their zones and for the development and enforcement of appropriate regulations for the conservation of fisheries resources.
2. The U.S. should support and help interested nations develop compatible and if possible coordinated and cooperative systems on a regional or sub-regional basis. For example, the existing sub-regional grouping of Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde provides a reasonable base for cooperative surveillance efforts.
3. The U.S. should actively support and participate in the proposed FAO consultation in global surveillance needs.
4. In addition, the U.S. should develop and implement its own more formal program of assistance in fisheries surveillance, taking into account its experience in West Africa and elsewhere, and if available in a timely fashion the results of the proposed FAO consultation. It should consider integrating such a program with those of existing organizations such as the Committee for Eastern Central Atlantic Fisheries (CECAF).

With respect to resource surveys and stock assessment:

1. The U.S. should implement with all deliberate haste a research program in stock assessment based on the findings of the Workshop on Stock Assessment in Tropical Waters conducted for USAID by the University of Rhode Island in 1979. This research would be undertaken on a collaborative basis under provisions of Title XII of the Foreign Assistance Act. In West Africa, there are national institutes in the three nations I visited, Mauritania, Senegal and Nigeria, that could serve as collaborative institutions. There are similar institutes elsewhere in West Africa.
2. The U.S. should develop non-research projects designed to serve national, sub-regional, or regional needs in the field of stock assessment. These could be short or long-term and could be implemented by the U.S. alone or in conjunction with other donor agencies. Several such projects would be appropriate for West African countries in the immediate future.

With respect to training:

1. The U.S. should investigate training needs in fisheries generally and set up suitable programs to meet these needs. This would involve both expatriate training for LDC scientists and managers and the secondment of U.S. counterparts to overseas institutions. The applied training program being conducted at the University of Rhode Island can serve as a model for meeting some of the needs.

#### DETAILED REPORT

The three reporting telegrams that follow give most of the essential details on a country-by-country basis. These telegrams are Lagos 3937, Dakar 3024, and Nouakchott 1647.

Paragraph 7 of Lagos 3937 concerning tuna requires further explanation. Apart from this trip's mission, the Nigerian government had earlier asked for U.S. assistance in evaluating the potential for a tuna fishery in the Nigerian zone. According to officials of the Nigerian Institute of Oceanography and Marine Research (NIOMR), a tuna fishery, if feasible, would be aimed at providing fish for domestic consumption. They would can any surplus for export. They did not rule out the possibility of establishing their own distant-water fleet but acknowledged that Nigeria had no tuna fishing tradition -- their artisanal fleets have never fished for tuna. To establish a tuna fishery would thus require training at all levels.

Another peripheral subject was a possible U.S.-Nigerian scientific agreement. The NIOMR officials applauded the concept and noted their major scientific interest in chemical and physical oceanography, phytoplankton and zooplankton.

Two points in Dakar 3024 warrant reemphasis. One (paragraph 6) reiterates an all-too-common global complaint that there are all-too-many surveys of needs and all-too-little action ("We've been studied to death. When are you going to do something practical?"). The same criticism was raised in Mauritania (paragraph 13, Nouakchott).

The other point (paragraph 5) relates to the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF), which would welcome direct U.S. participation in its programs. If West African regional or sub-regional programs are instituted by AID, either as part of a global, Washington-based effort or under the leadership of the West African regional office, the possibilities of working with or through CECAF require careful scrutiny.

As an addendum to paragraph 4 of the same telegram, M. Fontana, Director of the Marine Laboratory (Centre de Recherches Oceanographiques de Dakar) remarked that stock assessment and analyses of the effect of fishing on the stocks was of major interest to them. They do a good deal of oceanographic work, particularly with respect to density-dependent factors affecting survival and the impact of environmental factors. Thirdly, they are involved in economic and social studies with major emphasis on the artisanal fleet.

The Center cooperates to some degree with the analogous laboratory in Abidjan and with CECAF, especially concerning tuna. The Dakar laboratory is in the Ministry of Science and Technology.

The two specific research proposals handed me (as examples, not as a request for U.S. funds, welcome though that might be) by M. Fontana are titled "Etude socio-economique de la peche artisanale en mer au Senegal," and "Incidence de l'environnement sus l'abondance et la disponibilite des ressources halieutiques au Senegal." The first carries a price tag of roughly \$134,000, and the second, roughly \$550,000, with the Senegal government providing a substantial share of each budget.

The Director of Fisheries of Senegal was out of the country at the time of my visit. The two assistants with whom I met did not raise surveillance as an issue. However, Mr. Allen found a great deal of interest both on the part of the Director and of the Navy, which operates the patrol vessels. Ambassador Cohen told me that surveillance assistance held a high priority at the Ministerial-Directorate level.

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ACTION AID-35

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ACTION OFFICE DSAG-02

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 ES-01 AAID-01 SFR-01 AGRI-01 COM-05 EPA-03 RELO-01  
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 AMEMBASSY HOUAKHOTT  
 USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LAGOS 03937

DEPT FOR AID/SD/AGR BREITENBACH AND RDP/DINKIN  
 OES/OFA STORER;  
 NOAA/HMFS BLONDIN

AIDAC

E.O. 12065: N/A  
 SUBJECT: MANAGING OCEAN FISHERIES OFF WEST AFRICA-  
 ROEDEL VISIT

REF: A) STATE 74770; B) LAGOS 3819

1. ROEDEL HAS COMPLETED A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH OFFICIALS FROM NIGERIA DEPT OF FISHERIES (NDF) AND NIGERIA INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY AND MARINE RESEARCH (NIOMR) AND WITH US EMBASSY STAFF. DISCUSSIONS WERE PRODUCTIVE AND HE REPORTS FOLLOWING HIGHLIGHTS.

2. ALTHOUGH A DECREE PROMULGATED IN 1975 SEPARATED FISHERIES RESEARCH FROM FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT, PLACING RESEARCH IN A SEPARATE MINISTRY, THE TWO UNITS SEEM TO COOPERATE FULLY. NDF HEADQUARTERS ARE ADJACENT TO NIOMR SO COMMUNICATION IS EASY. NDF IS A PART OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT WHILE NIOMR IS IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

3. BOTH AGENCIES ARE MOST INTERESTED IN PROPER MANAGEMENT OF THE EEZ BUT CURRENTLY LACK NECESSARY FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES. THEY ARE REQUESTING SUPPORT IN THE FOURTH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROGRAM AND ARE HIGHLIGHTING THE NEED.

4. THE PRINCIPAL INTEREST IN NDF SO FAR AS US TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IS CONCERNED LIES IN ENFORCEMENT AND SURVEILLANCE. BASIC FISHERIES LAW DATES TO SEA FISH DECREE OF 1971. EXTENDED ECONOMIC ZONE DECLARED 1978 COVERS LIVING AND NON-LIVING RESOURCES. SEAWARD BOUNDARY WITH CAMEROON UNRESOLVED AND MAY PROVE DIFFICULT. MARINE ENFORCEMENT IS FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY WITH PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY IN NDF WHICH COORDINATES EFFORTS WITH NAVY, MARINE POLICE, AND OTHERS.

5. NDF ENFORCEMENT UNIT ESTABLISHED 1973 AND IS STILL YOUNG AND WITH SMALL STAFF OF ABOUT 30 INSPECTORS AND ASSISTANTS. A FIELD STATION IS IN EACH COASTAL STATE. NDF HAS NO MARINE PATROL VESSELS BUT HOPES TO ACQUIRE 5 AT YEARLY INTERVALS DURING 5-YEAR BUDGET CYCLE 1981-85. NDF

PLANS ON 2 LONG-RANGE VESSELS IN 45-50 METER CLASS AND 3 IN-SHORE VESSELS ABOUT 20 METERS. PLANS SEEM FLUID AS TO EXACT SIZE, DESIGN AND PLACE OF PROCUREMENT. ASSISTANCE NEEDED IN VIRTUALLY ALL ASPECTS OF MARINE PATROL ESPECIALLY PATROL AT SEA. THEY WOULD LIKE PRACTICAL ON-JOB TYPE TRAINING FOR EXISTING INSPECTORS AND ARE CURRENTLY DRAWING UP PLANS FOR TRAINING NEEDS OF VESSEL CREWS. THEY ASKED IF THERE WAS POSSIBILITY OF TRAINING IN US FOR A FEW OF THEIR INSPECTORS. NIOMR PROVIDES THEM WITH SERVICES. IN DRAFTING REGULATIONS ETC. NIOMR CURRENTLY HAS MORE EXPERIENCE AT SEA AND IS A SOURCE OF KNOW-HOW. NO PLANS AT PRESENT FOR AIRCRAFT PATROLS. WILL RELY ON NAVY IF NEEDED.

6. NDF DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE REALLY ADDRESSED PROBLEMS OF REGIONAL COOPERATION BUT FEELS CEECAF IN ITS ROLE OF GENERAL COORDINATOR SERVES A USEFUL FUNCTION THAT HAS PRODUCED NON-BINDING RECOMMENDATIONS THAT ARE GENERALLY FOLLOWED. ECDWAS COULD PERHAPS BE USEFUL. JOINT PLANNING OF ENFORCEMENT AND SURVEILLANCE MIGHT BE DONE THROUGH CEECAF SUBREGIONS.

7. NIOMR GIVES HIGHEST PRIORITY TO RESOURCE ASSESSMENT AND INVESTIGATION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A TUNA FISHERY IN THEIR EEZ. SEE REFTEL B REGARDING TUNA. PARENTHETICALLY, NIGERIA IS NOT A MEMBER OF ATLANTIC TUNA COMMISSION.

8. NIOMR WOULD LIKE TO SEE AN UPDATING OF THE GULF OF GUINEA SURVEY OF THE 1960'S TO GIVE A CURRENT FIX ON STOCK STATES. MOST INTERESTED IN STOCK ASSESSMENT PLANNING BY AID UNDER TITLE 12. CERTAINLY NIOMR WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT INSTITUTION TO CARRY OUT ASPECTS OF THE RESEARCH IF SUCH A PROGRAM IS FUNDED.

9. NIOMR IS INVOLVED IN POLLUTION STUDIES AND WORKS WITH NIGERIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN. THEY SAY THEY NEED ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING APPROPRIATE PROCEDURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

10. PROBLEMS OF QUALITY CONTROL AND POST HARVEST LOSSES

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INCOMING  
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PAGE 01  
ACTION AID-35

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ACTION OFFICE DSAG-02  
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AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 LAGOS 03937

RECEIVING INCREASED ATTENTION THROUGH FISH PROCESSING  
DIVISION. THEY WOULD LIKE TO "MODERNIZE" SOME OF THE  
TRADITIONAL METHODS TO HELP GAIN THESE ENDS.

11. NIOMR FEELS NEED FOR STAFF FELLOWSHIPS ABROAD AT  
POST DOCTORAL AND POST GRADUATE LEVELS. WOULD LIKE TO  
ARRANGE PRACTICAL SHIPBOARD EXPERIENCE FOR STAFF MEMBERS.  
THIS INVOLVES MARINE SCIENCE GENERALLY AS WELL AS  
FISHERIES. THEY WOULD ALSO LIKE TO REESTABLISH CONTACTS  
WITH US UNIVERSITIES WHICH ARE NOW AT A LOW EBB. THEY  
SPOKE PARTICULARLY OF MIAMI AND FRANK WILLIAMS WHO IS  
HIGHLY REGARDED HERE BECAUSE OF GULF OF GUINEA SURVEY.

12. THE REGIONAL AQUACULTURE TRAINING INSTITUTE, A PART  
OF NIOMR, IS NOW OPERATIONAL WITH FIRST STUDENTS ARRIVING  
IN JUNE. IT IS JOINTLY FUNDED WITH FAO AND SERVES AS  
FAO'S REGIONAL AQUACULTURE FACILITY FOR AFRICA. LOW

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 03024 210228Z  
ACTION DES-09

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DAKAR 03024 210228Z

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADS-00 AID-07 COME-00 INT-05 CIAE-00  
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INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKHOTT  
AMEMBASSY BISSAU  
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

UNCLAS DAKAR 03024

FOR BREITENBACH AID/DS/AGR  
STCRER DES/OFA  
BLONDIN, NOAA/MNFS

E. O. 12065/NA

TAGS: EFIS, SG

SUBJECT: MANAGING OCEAN FISHERIES -- SUMMARY REPORT  
ON ROEDEL TRIP TO SENEGAL

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY AND AID MISSION ARRANGED COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM INCLUDING MEETINGS WITH CEECAF, OFFICE OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES, FISHERIES LABORATORY, FIRST SECRETARY CANADIAN EMBASSY REGARDING CIDA PROGRAMS, AND WRAP-UP SESSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR COMEN AND MISSION DIRECTOR SHEAR. VISITS ALSO MADE TO SAIB TUNA-SARDINE CANNERY AND TO COASTAL ARTISANAL FISHING VILLAGE OF CAYAR. END SUMMARY.

2. DR. DIDUF, DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES, OUT OF COUNTRY BUT CHIEF ASSISTANTS DIAGNE (ARTISANAL SECTOR) AND DION (INDUSTRIAL SECTOR) PROVIDED NECESSARY INFORMATION. THEY REGARD PRINCIPAL NEEDS AS 1) FISHING GEAR AND EQUIPMENT ESPECIALLY TO UPGRADE ARTISANAL FLEET; 2) TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO OBTAIN BETTER CATCH FIGURES, AGAIN PARTICULARLY FOR ARTISANAL SECTOR, AND 3) ASSISTANCE IN IMPROVING PRESERVATION TECHNIQUES TO CUT HIGH POST-HARVEST LOSSES. THEY DID NOT BRING UP SURVEILLANCE BUT WERE AWARE OF PEIRY ALLEN'S VISIT.

3. CANADA, THROUGH CIDA, SPONSORED MOTORIZATION PROJECT AND IS NOW BUILDING REFRIGERATION FACILITIES AT CAYAR. A MARKETING STUDY IS SCHEDULED AS WELL. CANADIAN FIRST SECRETARY FERGUSON SEES NO CONFLICT OR DUPLICATION BETWEEN WHAT CANADA IS DOING AND ANYTHING US MIGHT DO.

4. LABORATORY DIRECTOR FONTANA (FRENCH, ORSTOM) LISTED THREE PRINCIPAL AREAS IN WHICH HE FELT US COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE WOULD BE USEFUL. 1) LAB, WHICH IS FUNDED BY SENEGAL BUT STAFFED LARGELY BY FRENCH (25-30 PROFESSIONALS) HAS SEVEN SENEGALESE SCIENTISTS WHO COULD BENEFIT FROM ADDITIONAL TRAINING IN US. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED SCRIPPS AND UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON. THESE MEN HAVE AB OR MA AND SPEAK ENGLISH WELL ENOUGH TO UNDERGO STUDIES IN US. SENDING ONE OR TWO AT TIME FOR ABOUT YEAR'S TRAINING IS TOP PRIORITY. 2) STATIONING US SCIENTISTS WITH PARTICULAR SKILLS AT LABORATORY FOR UP TO FEW MONTHS TO HELP STAFF CERTAIN DISCIPLINES SUCH AS STOCK ASSESSMENT AND GATHERING AND TREATMENT OF STATISTICAL DATA. CURRENT OFFICIAL LANDING FIGURES SAID TO OVERESTIMATE CATCH SIGNIFICANTLY. 3) FINANCING SPECIFIC RESEARCH PROJECTS. WE WERE GIVEN TWO DRAFT PROPOSALS AS EXAMPLES.

5. CEECAF WOULD WELCOME GREATER US PARTICIPATION IN ITS WORK. IT IS GETTING DEEPLY INVOLVED IN LEGAL MATTERS PERTAINING TO EEZ THROUGH ITS REGIONAL LAW ADVISORY PROGRAM. US ASSISTANCE IN ENFORCEMENT AND SURVEILLANCE TO WEST AFRICAN NATIONS SHOULD BE CAREFULLY COORDINATED WITH CEECAF.

ALSO ANY US FISHERIES PLANNING EFFORT FOR PROGRAMS CONCERNED WITH RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT OF WEST AFRICAN EEZ'S SHOULD INCLUDE CONSULTATION WITH CEECAF.

6. IMPRESSION STRONG THAT AT LEAST SOME SENEGALESE FISHERIES OFFICIALS ARE DISENCHANTED WITH RECURRING SURVEYS OF NEEDS WHICH SEEM GENERALLY TO LEAD NOWHERE. ROEDEL'S OPINION IS THAT US SHOULD BE CAREFUL NOT TO SUGGEST ANY ACTION UNLESS IT IS PREPARED TO FOLLOW THROUGH. AT SAME TIME QUICK RESPONSE TO ANY REQUEST FOR HELP SUCH AS IN SURVEILLANCE WOULD BE USEFUL, AND US SHOULD QUIETLY EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF SCIENTIFIC TRAINING IN US AND OF POSTING EXPERTS FOR SHORT TERM AT MARINE LABORATORY. COMEN

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WAS RETURNING AND ARE MOST ANXIOUS TO CONSULT WITH HIM  
DURING HIS STAY.

ACTION OFFICE DSAG-02

INFO AAAF-01 AFFW-04 AFCW-03 AFDR-06 NETC-04 NENA-03 AADS-01  
CH8-01 AGRI-01 RELO-01 STA-10 MAST-01 AFDA-01 /039 A2

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AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY PRAIA  
AMEMBASSY RABAT

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 NOUAKCHOTT 01647

AIDAC

SECSTATE FOR AID/SD/AGR DSAGR

E.O. 12065: N/A

SUBJECT: MANAGING OCEAN FISHERIES-WEST AFRICA, ROEDEL  
REPORT ON MAURITANIA

1. ROEDEL WAS IN NOUAKCHOTT 16-19 APRIL DURING WHICH TIME HE TALKED WITH GIRM FISHERIES OFFICIALS, US EMBASSY AND AID OFFICIALS, AND FISHERIES EXPERT ON AID CONTRACT TEAM FOR RURAL ASSESSMENT MANPOWER SURVEY (RAMS).

2. THE OVERRIDING INTEREST IN MAURITANIA IS IN ENFORCEMENT AND SURVEILLANCE. MAURITANIA CLEARLY HAS A MAJOR PROBLEM AND NEEDS ALL THE HELP IT CAN GET IF IT IS TO BE ABLE TO CONTROL FOREIGN FISHING IN ITS ZONE OF EXTENDED JURISDICTION. THE COMBINATION OF WHAT APPEARS TO BE A MAJOR FISHERIES RESOURCE COUPLED WITH MAURITANIA'S LACK OF AN INDUSTRIAL FISHERY OF ITS OWN AND A RELATIVELY MODEST COASTAL ARTISANAL FISHERY DIFFERENTIATES MAURITANIA FROM NIGERIA AND SENEGAL. THE FOREIGN FISHING EFFORT IS INTENSE, LITTLE OF THE REVENUE ACCRUES TO MAURITANIA, AND VIOLATIONS OF FISHING AGREEMENTS ARE BELIEVED RAMPANT. VARIOUS JOINT VENTURES ARE IN PLACE OR BEING NEGOTIATED, INCLUDING SEVERAL WITH EASTERN BLOC COUNTRIES. JAPAN, KOREA, SPAIN AND PORTUGAL ALSO FISH IN THE ZONE. MUCH OF THE CATCH GOES DIRECT TO LAS PALMAS, SOME IS LANDED AT NOUADHIBOU WHICH THE GIRM HOPES WILL DEVELOP INTO A MAJOR FACILITY.

3. IN MAURITANIA, THE FISHERIES MINISTRY DOES NOT HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENFORCEMENT AND SURVEILLANCE. AUTHORITY IS IN THE NAVY WHICH HAS NO FISHERIES EXPERIENCE OR FISHERIES INSPECTORS. CLEARLY A SUCCESSFUL ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM WILL DEPEND ON CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN FISHERIES AND THE NAVY. THE FISHERIES OFFICIALS GAVE ENFORCEMENT TOP PRIORITY IN MAURITANIA'S OVERALL FISHERIES PROGRAM.

4. THEY POINTED OUT THE IMPACT OF DROUGHT ASHORE, THAT FISH REPRESENTED THEIR REMAINING RENEWABLE PROTEIN RESOURCE, AND THAT IT MUST BE PROTECTED FROM OVEREXPLOITATION AT THE HANDS OF DISTANT-WATER FISHERMEN. THEY HOPE THE US WILL TRY TO HELP THEM FIND SOLUTIONS TO THEIR NATION'S SURVEILLANCE NEEDS ESPECIALLY IN TRAINING AND MANPOWER. IT DOESN'T MATTER WHICH DEPARTMENT HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY SO LONG AS THE JOB IS DONE. THE VISIT OF NMFS ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL PERRY ALLEN WAS OBVIOUSLY APPRECIATED. THE FISHERIES MINISTRY WAS NOT AWARE THAT ALLEN

5. THE NEED FOR COOPERATION WITH NEIGHBORING STATES CAME UP IN SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS AND NOT ONLY IN CONNECTION WITH ENFORCEMENT. THE SUB-REGIONAL GROUPING OF MAURITANIA, GAMBIA, SENEGAL, CAPE VERDE AND GUINEA BISSAU COULD FORM A RATIONAL UNIT FOR JOINT SURVEILLANCE AS WELL AS FOR JOINT SCIENTIFIC AND MANAGEMENT EFFORTS. THESE NATIONS MEET IN NOUAKCHOTT IN MAY TO CONSIDER CLOSER COOPERATION AND THE RESULTS OF THE SESSION SHOULD BE MOST INTERESTING.

6. TOP PRIORITY AFTER SURVEILLANCE GOES TO SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH LEADING TO RESOURCE EVALUATION, STOCK ASSESSMENT, AND, WHEN AND IF REQUIRED, THE CONTROL OF FISHING EFFORT. THE CENTRE NATIONAL DE RECHERCHES OCEANOGRAPHIQUES ET DE PECHE IS IN NOUADIBOU. A PLANNED VISIT WAS CANCELLED BECAUSE THE DIRECTOR, DR. BA, WAS IN NOUAKCHOTT. CONSEQUENTLY NO COMMENT IS POSSIBLE AS TO THE ADEQUACY OF THE STAFF OR THE FACILITY. HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A POTENTIAL PARTICIPATING INSTITUTION IF THE TITLE XII COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROPOSAL FOR STOCK ASSESSMENT IS IMPLEMENTED AS IS HOPED BY 1982.

7. STOCK ASSESSMENT REMAINS A HIGH PRIORITY ITEM REGIONALLY IN WEST AFRICA AS WELL AS IN MOST OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. A SUBREGIONAL PROJECT INVOLVING THE NATIONS LISTED IN PARA 5 AND PERHAPS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF CECAF IS A POSSIBILITY UNDER AID/ST AFRICA AUSPICES. TO GET THE NECESSARY SCIENTIFIC BACKUP MIGHT REQUIRE INCLUDING THE MARINE SCIENCE LABORATORIES IN IVORY COAST AND NIGERIA.

8. BASIC LIFE HISTORY STUDIES ARE NEEDED ESPECIALLY OF CEPHALOPODS AND SPARIDS.

9. MAURITANIA NEEDS HELP IN FISHING TECHNOLOGY AND PRODUCT

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COM-05 RELO-01 STA-10 MAST-01 AFDA-01 /042 A4

INFO OCT-01 /036 W  
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AMEMBASSY BISSAU  
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY PRAIA  
AMEMBASSY RABAT

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AIDAC

SECSTATE FOR AID/SD/AGR DSAGR

TECHNOLOGY AND, PRETTY CLEARLY THOUGH NOT STATED, IN  
MARKETING IF AN EFFORT IS TO BE MADE TO DIVERT INTERNATIONAL  
LANDINGS FROM LAS PALMAS TO NOUADIBOU AND TO DEVELOP  
A LARGER DOMESTIC MARKET.

10. DEVELOPMENT OF ARTISANAL FISHING HOLDS A RELATIVELY  
LOW PRIORITY THOUGH IT IS NOT OVERLOOKED. A MEMBER OF  
THE RAHC TEAM (PARA 1) IS A FISHERIES SCIENTIST SPECIAL-  
IZING IN FRESH-WATER FISHERIES. HIS ASSIGNMENT HAS BEEN  
BROADENED TO INCLUDE ARTISANAL MARINE FISHERIES. HE  
BELIEVES THERE ARE GOOD OPPORTUNITIES FOR INLAND FISH  
CULTURE AND INCREASED RIVERINE AND IMPOUNDMENT FISHERIES.  
CERTAINLY IT MAKES SENSE TO INTEGRATE A FISHERIES  
COMPONENT INTO ANY WATERSHED MANAGEMENT SCHEME. FURTHER  
THERE ARE SALT-WATER LAGOONS ALONG PART OF THE COAST THAT  
MIGHT SUPPORT MANAGED PRODUCTION, AND UPGRADING OF  
EXISTING OCEAN FISHING COMMUNITIES IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE.  
THE POTENTIAL FOR AQUACULTURE (MARINE AND FRESHWATER)  
REQUIRES EVALUATION BY FISH CULTURE SPECIALISTS WHOSE  
SERVICES CAN BE PROVIDED THROUGH AID WASHINGTON.

11. THE NEED FOR TRAINING REMAINS PARAMOUNT. REQUIRE-  
MENTS ARE ACROSS THE BOARD AND OVERRIDE DISCIPLINE-  
SPECIFIC PRIORITIES SUCH AS SURVEILLANCE AND STOCK ASSES-  
MENT. IN THE FIELD OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND SCIENCE  
MAURITANIA HAS ONLY ABOUT FIVE REPEAT FIVE PEOPLE WITH  
FISHERIES BACKGROUND. LOW THOUGH THIS NUMBER IS, IT IS  
GREATER THAN THAT IN SOME OF MAURITANIA'S NEIGHBORS. THE  
US CAN DO SEVERAL THINGS. IT CAN POST MANAGERS AND  
SCIENTISTS IN FISHERIES DEPARTMENTS AND LABORATORIES TO  
PROVIDE SPECIFIC SERVICES. OFTEN A MONTH OR TWO CAN WORK  
WONDERS. IT CAN ARRANGE FOR EDUCATION IN THE US (OR  
ELSEWHERE) IN ANY FIELD OF FISHERIES. IT CAN ARRANGE "ON  
THE JOB" TRAINING. A MAURITANIAN SUGGESTED THAT TEACHING  
HIS FISHERIES PEOPLE ENGLISH WOULD BE A GREAT SERVICE  
SINCE THE BULK OF FISHERIES LITERATURE IS IN ENGLISH.

12. THE EXPERIENCE OF GUINEA BISSAU WITH FISHERIES TRAIN-  
ING MAY PROVIDE USEFUL GUIDELINES. IT HAD NO FISHERIES  
PEOPLE WHEN IT EMBARKED IN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT BUT HAS  
ARRANGED FOR AND OBTAINED FINANCING FOR TRAINING AT VAR-  
IOUS LEVELS. SOME STUDENTS ARE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF  
RHODE ISLAND AND REPORTEDLY ARE DOING WELL DISPIETE THE  
LANGUAGE BARRIER.

13. MAURITANIA LIKE MANY OTHER NATIONS ASKS WHAT, IN A  
PRACTICAL SENSE, WE PROPOSE TO DO. "WE'VE BEEN STUDIED TO  
DEATH BUT NOTHING HAS HAPPENED" REMAINS A HOT UNJUSTIFIED  
COMPLAINT.

14. KEY AREAS FOR US ASSISTANCE IN MAURITANIA ARE IN  
SUMMARY: (1) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT  
POSSIBLE IN HELPING SOLVE PROBLEMS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND  
FISHERIES SURVEILLANCE IN THE ZONE OF EXTENDED JURISDICTION;  
(2) TECHNICAL SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANCE TO THE CENTRE  
NATIONAL DE RECHERCHES. REQUIREMENTS OF THE CENTER NEED  
TO BE DEFINED BUT OVERSEAS TRAINING IS A CLEAR NEED.  
CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS COULD PERHAPS BE MET BY SENDING US  
SCIENTISTS TO THE CENTER. SPECIAL ATTENTION SHOULD GO TO  
STOCK ASSESSMENT.

15. THE POTENTIAL FOR FISH CULTURE IN BOTH SALT AND FRESH  
WATER SHOULD BE EXPLORED BY A US EXPERT. THIS MIGHT  
ULTIMATELY LEAD TO A COUNTRY SPECIFIC PROJECT BUT IS LOWER  
PRIORITY THAN THOSE LISTED IN PARA 14.

16. REGIONAL OR SUBREGIONAL PROJECTS INVOLVING AT LEAST  
THE NATIONS FROM MAURITANIA TO GUINEA BISSAU NEED CAREFUL  
EXPLORATION. THESE PROJECTS COULD DEAL WITH ENFORCEMENT,  
WITH STOCK ASSESSMENT OR WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER TOPICS NOW  
GIVEN LOWER PRIORITY. THEY COULD PROBABLY BEST BE MANAGED  
IN COOPERATION WITH CECAF (COMMITTEE FOR EASTERN CENTRAL  
ATLANTIC FISHERIES) THOUGH OTHER NON-FAO REGIONAL BODIES  
MIGHT BE SUITABLE, AND AID COULD OF COURSE HANDLE THEM  
ITSELF.

17. THE INTENSE GLOBAL INTEREST IN STOCK ASSESSMENT,  
REEMPHASIZED IN MAURITANIA, POINTS UP THE IMPORTANCE OF THE  
COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAM PROPOSED UNDER TITLE XII.  
QUICK IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROGRAM WOULD BE OF MAJOR  
LONG-RANGE IMPORTANCE TO OCEAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT.  
KRYZA

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