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# **ANNUAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE FISHERY SECTOR IN GUINEA-BISSAU**

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# **Annual Fishery Management Plan in Guinea-Bissau**

- 1. Mission Report**
- 2. Recommendations for the Annual Fishery Management Plan in Guinea-Bissau**
- 3. Basic Concepts for the Annual Plan**
- 4. Proposal for the Annual Fishery Management Plan in Guinea-Bissau**
- 5. Consultant's Statement of Work**
- 6. Report on the roundtable meeting on the Fishery Management Plan in Guinea-Bissau**

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**TRADE AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION SUPPORT PROJECT  
(TIPS)**

**ROUNDTABLE MEETING**

**"RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A MANAGEMENT PLAN  
FOR THE FISHERY SECTOR IN GUINEA-BISSAU"**

As a strategy to prevent the depletion of the commercially valuable fishery stocks in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Guinea Bissau and increase socioeconomic benefits to the country, the Ministry of Fisheries proposes the introduction of the 1995 Fisheries Management Plan. The Plan is the first step for the management, exploitation and conservation of fishery resources in the 200-mile EEZ to guarantee its long-term sustainability.

The Plan suggests actions the government could jointly take with the private sector and the assistance of international agencies for the execution of the recommendations of Guinean experts and the conclusions of the TIPS document "GRANDES ORIENTAÇÕES DE POLÍTICA PESQUEIRA NACIONAL."

The Plan also introduces administrative processes to continually guide the management of the fishery resources and control methods for use by management agencies. The 1995 Plan only addresses issues concerning the industrial fishery sector and in particular the operation by foreign fleets outside the EEZ, in the twelve to 200-mile zone. Because of that geographic limitation, contained in the 1995 Plan, problems and needs of the artisanal fishery sector are not addressed by this document.

## **Fishery Resource Management in Guinea-Bissau without adequate scientific data.**

### **Increased overfishing and the crisis in the Management Plans**

Guinean and foreign fishery experts agree that a sustainable management plan for the fishery resources in Guinea-Bissau must be based on reliable scientific information. (Cury and Roy, (Editors), 1991). This opinion has the consensus of marine biologists and those who exploit the fishery resources.

That notion, however, reveals lack of understanding about the patterns of fishery resources along the West African coast and other regions. It is erroneously based on the supposition that it is possible to gather precise scientific information on a short-term basis and use it as a reliable guideline to determine allowable catch yields and establish a conservation program for the fishery resources and the marine environment. The failure of that supposition has become quite clear in Guinea-Bissau.

Following the initial agreements signed by Guinea-Bissau after the adoption of the 200-mile EEZ, foreign fleet pressure on the country's fishery resources has steadily grown, representing a continuous decline in revenues. The most important reasons for this tendency are listed below:

- 1. As the country's most important source of revenue, which is highly regarded by foreign fleet operators, the exploitation of stocks is intensive and virtually unlimited. Foreign companies take away 95% of this national asset. They do not show any concern regarding the preservation of the stocks they explore.**
- 2. Scientific data on the situation of these resources is partially or infrequently supplied or, simply, nonexistent. As a result, there has been no consensus or clear definition of allowable yield levels or fishing efforts. The problem is further complicated due to insufficient control of efforts for commercial stocks and lack of surveillance of fishing activities in the EEZ.**
- 3. The complexity of the tropical marine environment makes it impossible to conceptualize a transparent fishery resource management plan based on a global biological model that includes all species. Consequently, the exploitation efforts were established on a trial and error basis.**
- 4. The great natural variations (cycles of high and low resource availability due to changes in bio-oceanographic conditions) hide, at times, the effects of overfishing activities. Due to this fact, overfishing is not detectable until it has reached serious depletion levels and is, often, at an irreversible point.**

Under these circumstances, in the last twenty years after the country's independence, a consensus to define policies to guarantee long-term sustainability, conservation and management of the fishery resources in the EEZ has never been reached. The government has, according to consulting firms and governmental agencies recommendations, applied the MSY (Maximum Sustainable Yields) criterion to manage EEZ resources. That criterion is completely different from the one used to manage temperate and cold zone fishery resources. Unfortunately, there is a consensus that such a criterion is wrong. Therefore, there is an urgent need to elaborate a model for the management of the tropical marine resources in Guinea-Bissau. This should be one of CIPA's (National Center for Fishery Research) task.

### **Principles of Management of the Fishery Resources without adequate scientific data**

Based on the work and recommendations of several published papers (for example, Ludwig, Hilborn and Walters, 1993, Cramn, 1981, Cody and Gulland, 1983, among others) and in the absence of a conceptual model for the management of the fishery resources in Guinea-Bissau and, yet, in light of the impossibility to determine their present state it is recommended that the following actions be taken, according to the Fishery Resources Management Plan:

1. To take immediate conservation measures before reliable and consensual scientific data is available. Further scientific operations or additional studies are not necessary to restrict economic activities that affect the use and deplete the country's natural resources. In this context, requests for additional investigation may be a simple maneuver to postpone the application of conservation measures and management policies.

2. To apply socioeconomic and multidisciplinary criteria to resolve issues concerning the marine environment and its living resources. Marine biologists and scientists can identify the problems caused by overfishing but cannot find simple answers to them. Scientists' opinions are strongly influenced by their specific professional training. The management of the fishery resources can only be effective with the application of a multidisciplinary understanding of the situation (Cram, 1981). Furthermore, it is necessary to note that the opinions of marine scientists are often influenced by political pressure (Saetersdahl, 1980).

3. To consider that human motivations are an integral part of the management in the EEZ. The reduction of commercial stocks in the EEZ is caused by inadequate long-term conservation measures (lack of vision) and the strategy of maximization of profit by fishery operators (greed), in particular, foreign companies. They were the main causes of the current crisis of the fishery resources in Guinea-Bissau, though overfishing can be a manifestation of bio-oceanographic problem of the stocks explored.

4. To take immediate action, without the investigation of a long list of specific environmental topics, considering the urgency of the introduction of a conservation regime. Based upon the initial and applied resources information used to prepare the model of management of tropical resources, it is absolutely necessary to take under consideration international factors, market demands and other socioeconomic aspects. It is not likely that basic scientific investigation can resolve the issue of sustainable exploitation of the resources under market pressure (demand), population growth, prices, etc. That is why it is necessary to avoid immediate solution of the overfishing problem by directing all available funds to the basic (bio-oceanographic) scientific investigation of the marine ecosystems without considering multidisciplinary investigation of the poorly protected common rights resources.

5. To understand that science and technology (even with a solid financial support) cannot find the solutions for the overfishing situation and identify the appropriate actions for the management and conservation of the fishery resources in Guinea-Bissau. The policy for the management of the fishery resources for the next years must confront that uncertainty.

Even in complex situations such as the current conditions of the fishery resources in Guinea-Bissau, it is possible to delineate efficient sector-related policies. There are well-developed theories for use in cases of lack of available scientific information. These measures must be based on good judgement and management strategies and must promote actions that can challenge those uncertainties. Through trial and error, results can be monitored, and policies can be evaluated and modified according to the needs. In such situations reversible management measures are more favorable.

The institutions responsible for the fishery resource policy and management in Guinea-Bissau frequently base their policy in inaccurate ideas about the dynamics of resource exploitation. It is true that scientists have been very successful at identifying the degradation of the marine environment and the risks to the local population. However, it has been the scientific community itself who has been contributing to the perpetuation of the illusion of sustainable development through science and technology.

The existing overfishing situation in Guinea-Bissau is not an environmental issue. It is a human issue, created by overfishing, lack of concern (and greed) on the foreign fleet operators' part regarding the consequences to the fishery resources in Guinea-Bissau and management deficiencies that, for many years have existed under many political, economic and social systems.

The Management plan must clearly reflect that important conclusion.

#### Bibliography

1. Caddy J., Gulland, J., Marine Policy Journal, 7, V - 267, 1993.
2. Cram, D. Lessons from Coastal Upwelling Fisheries, in: Glantz, M. R. and Thomson, J. D., Resource Management and Environmental Uncertainty, New York, 1981.
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## **IS IT POSSIBLE TO MANAGE THE FISHERY RESOURCES IN GUINEA-BISSAU WITHOUT ADEQUATE SCIENTIFIC DATA?**

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That notion, however, reveals lack of understanding about the patterns of fishery resources along the West African coast and other regions. It is erroneously based on the supposition that it is possible to gather precise scientific information on a short-term basis and use it as a reliable guideline to determine allowable catch yields and establish a conservation program for the fishery resources and the marine environment. The failure of that supposition has become quite clear in Guinea-Bissau.

Following the initial agreements signed by Guinea-Bissau after the adoption of the 200-mile EEZ, foreign fleet pressure on the country's fishery resources has steadily grown, representing a continuous decline in revenues. The most important reasons for this tendency are listed below:

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**2. Scientific data on the situation of these resources is partially or infrequently supplied or, simply, nonexistent. As a result, there has been no consensus or clear definition of allowable yield levels or fishing efforts. The problem is further complicated due to insufficient control of efforts for commercial stocks and lack of surveillance of fishing activities in the EEZ.**

**3. The complexity of the tropical marine environment makes it impossible to conceptualize a transparent fishery resource management plan based on a global biological model that includes all species. Consequently, the exploitation efforts were established on a trial and error basis.**



**4. The great natural variations (cycles of high and low resource availability due to changes in bio-oceanographic conditions) hide, at times, the effects of overfishing activities. Due to this fact, overfishing of stocks is not detectable until it has reached serious depletion levels and is, often, at an irreversible point.**

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# PROGRAM

## ROUNDTABLE MEETING

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE FISHERY SECTOR IN GUINEA-BISSAU

1. Management of the Fishery Resources in Guinea-Bissau without adequate scientific data.
  - 1.1 Increased overfishing and the crisis in the management plans
2. Management Plan objectives
  - a) Establishment of catch allowable limits (TAC) for main species groups,
  - b) Definition of catch efforts (TAB) in relationship to TAC,
  - c) Introduction of new principles of resource allotment to interest groups,
  - d) Re-evaluation of licensing fees and creation of private sector incentives,
  - e) Development of measures for resource protection and conservation,
  - f) Definition of legislative and administrative follow-up measures.
3. Ministry of Fisheries as manager of the plan
4. Environmental situation
5. Management options and recommendations
6. Summary of positive and negative impacts resulting from suggested actions
7. Management actions recommended to accomplish objectives
8. Justification of the Plan and net benefits to the country
9. The need for continuous revision and monitoring of the Plan by the Ministry and the Private Sector.

**10. Support actions (fishery, environmental and socioeconomic aspects)**

- 10.1 Statistical Material on the environment and the fishery sector**
- 10.2 Initiatives to maintain fishery income in the national budget**
- 10.3 Legislative measures concerning the Plan**
- 10.4 Improvements in the surveillance system**
- 10.5 Protective measures for artisanal fishing and promotion of private industrial fisheries**

**TRADE AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION SUPPORT PROJECT  
(TIPS), Guinea-Bissau**

**ACTION PLAN  
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE**

Proposals for the  
**1995 Fisheries Management Plan**  
Guinea-Bissau

Seattle-Bissau  
March, 1995

**ROUNDTABLE PROGRAM**

**TIPS PROJECT  
April 10, 1995**

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**Sources and Bibliography****Attachments:**

**The process of preparation, revision and execution of the Plan by the Ministry of Fisheries.**



## CONTENTS

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### Introduction

As a strategy to prevent the depletion of the commercially valuable fishery stocks in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Guinea Bissau and increase the overall socioeconomic benefits to the country, the Ministry of Fisheries proposes the introduction of the 1995 Fisheries Management Plan. The Plan is the starting point for fishery resource management, exploitation and conservation in the 200-mile EEZ in order to guarantee its long-term sustainability.

The Plan contains action recommendations the government can take in cooperation with the private sector and the assistance of international agencies to execute the suggestions of Guinean experts and the conclusions of the TIPS document "GRANDES ORIENTAÇÕES DE POLÍTICA PESQUEIRA NACIONAL."

The Plan also introduces administrative processes that will continually manage the fishery resources and control methods for use by management agencies. The 1995 Plan only addresses issues concerning the industrial fishery sector, in particular the operation by foreign fleets outside the EEZ, in the twelve to 200-mile zone. As a consequence of that geographic limitation contained in the 1995 Plan, problems and needs of the artisanal fishery sector are not addressed by this document.

### **1. The Management of the Fishery Resources in the Guinea-Bissau without adequate Scientific Information**

#### **1.1 Increased overfishing and the crisis in the Management programs**

Fishery experts agree that a sustainable management plan for fishery resources must be based on reliable scientific information (Cury and Roy, (Editors). 1991). This opinion used to be the basis of a consensus conceived to estimate the yields of species from cold and temperate latitudes and also used for the management of fishery resources in tropical latitudes, that have very different characteristics. That notion, however, reveals lack of understanding about the patterns of fishery resources along the West African coast and other regions. It is erroneously based on the supposition that it is possible to gather precise scientific information on a short-term basis and use it as a reliable guideline to determine allowable catch yields and establish a conservation program for the fishery

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## 2. Objectives of the Management Plan

The main objectives of the Management Plan are the prevention of overexploitation of the country's fishery resources and the establishment of appropriate conservation and protection measures for the fishery resources. Due to institutional limitations and difficulties that had been anticipated by the government, the efforts for the first Annual Plan have been directed to a limited number of objectives. Other objectives will be included in future annual plans. Among the most important interventions, the Plan recommends the following management policies:

- a) Establishment of catch allowable limits (TAC) for main species groups,
- b) Definition of catch efforts (TAB) in relationship to TAC,
- c) Introduction of new principles of resource allotment to interest groups,
- d) Re-evaluation of licensing fees and creation of private sector incentives,
- e) Development of measures for resource protection and conservation,
- f) Definition of legislative and administrative follow-up measures.

## 3. Ministry of Fisheries as Manager of the Plan

According to the General Fishery Law, Title II, Chapter I, Article 8, "it is the task of the Ministry of Fisheries to implement the Fishery Management Plan based on available scientific and economic information." The Ministry may request the appraisal of different fishery sector-related agencies (Section 4 of the referred law).

It will be the responsibility of the Ministry of Fisheries to prepare, discuss and consult with the Guinean people and also to publish and implement the management plans in the future. In order to accomplish these tasks the Ministry of Fisheries will be assisted by technicians from its agencies such as the National Center for Fishery Research, National Agency of Industrial Fishery, with support from the Planning and Studies Service.

As a member of the Subregional Fishery Commission, Guinea-Bissau has taken many actions to harmonize the practices of resource management in the EEZ in conjunction with other Western African countries. Article 2 of the Convention of the Commission establishes that member-countries will "on a long-term basis, harmonize their policies of preservation, conservation and exploitation of their fishery resources." This includes the unification of the principle of the sale of fishing licenses, control the activities for both

domestic and foreign fleet operators, surveillance and other coordinated fishery resources management actions.

The current plan manages to fulfill those objectives.

## **4. Environmental situation**

### **4.1. The current state and potential of the EEZ resources**

Several studies were carried out in the 1980's to analyze the situation of the continental platform. They concluded that the total biomass of fish, mollusks, and crustaceans reach 1,5 million tons which makes the EEZ of Guinea-Bissau one of the richest fishery zones in the Western African coast. Thus, the allowable efforts could be estimated between 250.000 and 300.000 tons/year. This potential yield includes the catch of the Balistes, a species with little commercial value, very abundant in the region, with an annual yield estimated at 150.000 tons/year.

Table 1.  
**ESTIMATED ANNUAL YIELD POTENTIAL  
 AND MARKET VALUE OF THE  
 FISHERY RESOURCES OF GUINEA-BISSAU**  
 (Volumes according to estimates in the late 80's. Current Prices.)

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH (tons)</b>	<b>AVERAGE VALUE CIF EUROPE (US\$/ton)</b>	<b>ESTIMATED VALUE US\$</b>
<b>Crustaceans</b>			
Shrimp	5,000	6,000	30,000,00
Lobster	500	5,000	2,500,000
Crabs	500	5,000	1,500,000
<b>Cephalopods</b>	4,500	3,000	6,750,000
<b>Demersal</b>	50,000	800	40,000,00
Tuna	5,000	1,200	6,000,000
<b>Pelagic:</b>			
Anchovies and Sardinellas	21,000	300	6,300.000
Caranguidae	20,000	200	4,000,000
Other species (Balistes, etc)	150,000	50	2,500,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>156,500</b>		<b>99,550,000</b>

Source: Djassi. S., *Pescas: Importância, Dificuldades e Perspectivas de Desenvolvimento*. Bissau, 10 de agosto de 1993.  
 MacAllister, Elliott & Partners. *Relatório sobre o Setor de Pescas*. Bissau, Junho, 1989.  
 Estudo Sobre a Avaliação do Primeiro Plano Quadrienal com Vista à Preparação do Segundo Plano de 1988 a 1997,  
 Bissau, Outubro de 1987,  
 Secretaria de Estado das Pescas and other sources.

Overfishing, poor surveillance and illegal fishery activities in the EEZ have caused a reduction of yield potentials and the deterioration of economic effects in the industrial fishery sector in Guinea-Bissau. Without emergency governmental measures, there is a real danger that the biodiversity and the levels of commercial stocks will be drastically reduced. The first signs of rupture of ecological balance in the country's coastal waters is the sudden emergence of a enormous population of Balistes, a species with low commercial value that takes over areas depleted of demersal and semi pelagic species. The depletion of these resources causes a persistent decline in revenues from the sale of licenses to foreign fleet operators, creating a negative effect on the national budget, reducing business opportunities and obstructing the development of a national industrial fleet.

**ESTIMATED ANNUAL YIELD POTENTIAL  
AND MARKET VALUE OF THE  
FISHERY RESOURCES OF GUINEA-BISSAU**  
(Volumes according to estimates in the late 80's. Current Prices.)

SPECIES	TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH (tons)	AVERAGE VALUE CIF EUROPE	ESTIMATED VALUE US\$ (US\$/ton)
<b>Crustaceans</b>			
Shrimp	5,000	6,000	30,000,00
Lobster	500	5,000	2,500,00
Crabs	500	5,000	1,500,00
<b>Cephalopodes</b>	4,500	3,000	6,750,00
<b>Demersal</b>	50,000	800	40,000,00
Tuna	5,000	1,200	6,000,00
<b>Pelagic:</b>			
Anchovies and Sardinellas	21,000	300	6,300,00
Caranguidae	20,000	200	4,000,00
Other species (Balistes, etc)	50,000	50	2,500,00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>156,500</b>		<b>99,550.00</b>

Sources: Djassi. S., *Pescas: Importância, Dificuldades e Perspectivas de Desenvolvimento*. Bissau, 10 de agosto de 1993.  
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 Secretaria de Estado das Pescas and other sources.



5. Management options and recommendations
6. Summary of positive and negative impacts resulting from suggested actions
7. Management actions recommended to accomplish objectives
8. Justification of the Plan and net benefits to the country
9. The need for continuous revision and monitoring of the Plan by the Ministry and the Private Sector.
10. Support actions (fishery, environmental and socioeconomic aspects)
  - 10.1 Statistical Material on the environment and the fisheries sector
  - 10.2 Initiatives to maintain fishery income in the national budget
  - 10.3 Legislative measures relative to the Plan
  - 10.4 Improvements in the surveillance system
  - 10.5 Protective measures for artisanal fishing and promotion of private industrial fisheries

#### **Sources and Bibliography**

Attachment:

**The process of preparation, revision and execution of the Plan by the Ministry of Fisheries.**

Below is a temporary list of the species and groups of species (most presented with their local names) that will be managed by the Plan:

1) Shrimp

Penaeus duorarum  
(Camarão rosado)  
Parapenaeus longirostris  
(Camarão de águas profundas)  
Parapenaeopsis atlantica  
Panaeus kerathurus  
(Camarão Tigre)

2) Demersal fish (bottom)

Bagre  
Linguado  
Salmonete  
Sinapa  
Corvina  
Barbo e barbinhos  
Garoupas  
Cor-cor  
Pargos  
Dentões  
Bicas  
Cachorreta  
Carapau

3) Cephalopods

Chocos,  
Lula  
Polvo

4) Tuna

Thence albacores  
Thence Alalunga  
Espadarte (Xiphias gladius)

5) Other commercially valuable species

Carangueijo  
Lagosta

The plan recommends that the data collection and the sale of fishing licenses to foreign vessel operators to all the above-mentioned species be strictly controlled .

Below is the package of management measures that can be included in the 1995 Plan:

### **1. DETERMINING CATCH LIMITS (TAC)**

For the first time in Guinea-Bissau the Management Plan uses the criterion of Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of a commercial species or group of species, based on the estimated sustainable yields of the resources. TAC is determined by considering the following objectives:

- a) To maintain the long-term productivity (at a sustainable level) of the fishery resources and reconstitute overfished stocks,
- b) To protect the interests and opportunities for artisanal fishers and small Guinean industrial fishing companies,
- c) To ensure a balance between catch capacity and the state of commercial stocks to prevent excessive effort in the EEZ,
- d) To protect the fishery resources and the marine environment against the negative effects or uncontrolled and destructive fishing.

Because TAC objectives are defined in general terms, they remain constant for many years, regardless of changes in the abundance of stocks and the operations' resulting effects in productivity and revenues from target species harvested. Consequently, yields fished by different fleets at different times and places will also have different compositions. Therefore, every year, as part of the review process of fishery operations outcome from the previous year and evaluation of the next necessary conservation policies, the Ministry of Fisheries and its Center of Applied Fishery Research - CIPA- will recommend the TAC levels for commercial species. With time and the growing experience of the management agencies (Ministry and CIPA) the TAC's there will be a follow-up by other management measures such as the assignment of catch volumes for interest groups, types of vessels, and other conditions to allow the government of Guinea-Bissau to control fishery activities.

The government of Guinea-Bissau does not have credible information concerning the levels and state of its fishery resources. This lack of information is the most sensitive and dangerous aspect of the industrial fishery in the country, because the sale of licensing fees, mostly to foreign fleets, is virtually being done in the dark.

However, there are no studies available to help establish the volume or potential of existing resources. In fact, little is known about their biological cycles, traffic and migration patterns.

Given the difficulties mentioned above, the suggested TAC has a completely preliminary character and will serve as an example of the initial definition of harvest levels of commercial stocks. The TAC can be adjusted as more precise information becomes available.

#### EUROPEAN UNION ESTIMATED LEVELS OF SUSTAINABLE EFFORTS ON THE FISHERY RESOURCES IN GUINEA-BISSAU

Table

Species	Tons
Shrimp	2,400
Linguados	2,000
Salmonte	1,000
Machados	4,000
Covinas	10,000
Barbo and Barbinhos	12,000
Garoupas and Cor-Cor	5,600
Pargos, Dentões e Bicas	6,000
Cor-Cor	30,000
Other	5,000
TOTAL	78,000

Source: EU/EEZ Fisheries Agreement, Memorandum on the New Protocol, Brussels, May 1993.

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The levels of sustainable efforts for species shown on the above table are based on the evaluation of potential annual yields, as prepared by the EU. The source of this data is unknown. Therefore, the volumes presented on the table must be corrected by using other sources of information, including the Department of Statistics, the Department of Industrial Fisheries, the Fishery Research Center at the Ministry of Fisheries and the result of oceanographic expeditions, among other sources.

### **3. ALLOCATION OF FISHERY RESOURCES FOR SUB-SECTORS**

Among the New National Policies for the Fisheries Sector, the plan sets access priorities to the fishery resources. The classification of such priorities for the development of fishery activities in the EEZ is based on how those activities are integrated with the overall Guinean economy. Below is a list of the criteria that could be used for the allotment of resources among the many fisheries sub-sectors:

- a) Nationality of the fishery company,
- b) Vessel flag
- c) Degree of integration with the national economy:
  - joint-venture companies,
  - vessels freighted by Guinean companies
- d) Experimental fishing activities and exploitation
- e) Foreign fleets operating by the Bilateral Cooperation Fishery Agreement
- f) Foreign fleets operating without a cooperation agreement

### **4. ALLOTMENT TO THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL SECTOR**

From a sociopolitical perspective, it is necessary to establish priorities of the resource allotment among Guinean operators. However, the domestic fleet cannot handle all the available resource within the EEZ. Nevertheless, the domestic demand for commercial stocks will increase as the national fleet grows, new opportunities for the export arise and demand for fishery products in the domestic market increases. In the near future, the pressure of national privately-owned fishery companies for fishing licenses currently being allotted to foreign operators, will grow substantially. In order to attract and increment investment from domestic and foreign capital it is necessary to include the designated volumes in the Plan for the industrial fleets before quotas for other interest groups are established.

## **5. JOINT-VENTURES AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION ACTIVITIES**

Joint-ventures and other projects or companies operating with foreign capital, technology or know-how, can make a great contribution to the development of the Guinean fisheries capacity, increment earnings in hard currency, create job opportunities and supply the domestic market with fishery products. A number of joint-ventures that were established in Guinea-Bissau (for instance, Guialp, Semapesca, Guipeixe, among other initiatives), had limited or no success, caused not by the lack of fishery resources, capital or markets, but by poor planning and/or management.

In view of the non-existence of 100-per-cent-owned Guinean industrial fishery companies, joint-ventures such as GuinéPesca, PraiaMar, Estrela do Mar and Franguipesca, that currently make up the nucleus of the private sector of the Guinean fishery sector, should have priority during the process of allotment of the resources for 1995 and the following years.

## **6. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POTENTIAL YIELDS CAUGHT BY FOREIGN FLEETS AND RESOURCE AVAILABILITY**

### **a) Evaluation of the results of open sea fishing**

Until now, almost all the resources harvested in the EEZ, in the 12- to the 200-mile zone, were caught by foreign operators. According to reports by Guinean inspector onboard foreign vessels during 1993 the most active countries operating in the EEZ were the Russian Federation (38% of the total catch) and China (28%). These two countries caught two-thirds of all the yields fished by foreign vessels in 1993. The EU fleet had captured 23% of the yields. According to incomplete data (contradictory if compared to other information received by the Ministry of Fisheries during 1993), the final production by foreign fleets was 50,370 tons.

**Table - ANNUAL CATCHES IN THE EEZ OF GUINEA-BISSAU IN 1993 BY COUNTRY**

Country	Yields (Tons)	Percentage
1. RUSSIA	19,090	38
2. CHINA	13,873	28
3. EU	11,596	23
4. GUINEA-BISSAU	1,924	4
5. MOROCCO	1,065	2
6. SIERRA-LEONE	1,004	2
7. SENEGAL	969	2
8. KOREA	849	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50,370</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Department of Statistics, Ministries of Fisheries , 1994.

Assuming that, by average, at least 50% of the catches were rejected and thrown overboard by the foreign fleets because of their low commercial value, it is reasonable to affirm that the total yield fished that year could have reached at least 100,000 tons. During the shrimp harvest, by-catch is even more frequent and could easily exceed over 100% the of the shrimp yields.

The table below combines the annual yields by country in 1993 and the productivity of their fleets operating in the Guinean waters at that time. The largest fleet was the EU with a TAB of 9,852 followed by the Chinese fleet 5,055 TAB. In third is Senegal with a TAB of 3,061.

Table - ANNUAL CATCHES IN THE EEZ AND YIELDS BY ONE TAB IN 1993

COUNTRY	YIELDS (TONS)	YIELD PERCENTAGE	TAB	% OF TAB TON PER 1 TAB	
1. RUSSIA	19,090	38	1,701	6	11.22
2. CHINA	13,873	28	5,055	19	2.74
3. ITALY	7,094	14	2,489	9	2.85
4. PORTUGAL	2,640	5	3,093	11	0.85
5. G. BISSAU	1,924	4	1,035	4	1.86
6. SPAIN	1,862	4	4,270	16	0.44
7. MOROCCO	1,065	2	2,763	10	0.39
8. SIERRA-LEONE	1,004	2	2,686	10	0.37
9. SENEGAL	969	2	3,061	11	0.32
10. KOREA	849	2	1,021	4	0.83
TOTAL	50,370	100	27,174	100	1.85

Source: Department of Statistics, Ministry of Fisheries, 1994.

## b) According to the Volume and Composition of the Yields by TAB

According to the EU data (unfortunately incomplete and difficult to interpret - Memorandum on the New Agreement Protocol between EU/Guinea-Bissau, May 1993) from June 1991 to December 1992 the EU vessels caught three groups of species in virtually equal quantities: 32% of shrimp, 32% of cephalopods and 36% of other species (primarily fish). From table it is possible to observe that each TAB of an EU vessel caught 1.18 ton of diversified species. By using the average yields reported on the EU document we conclude that each TAB of EU vessels generate the following tonnage of final product:



**Average EU vessel Daily Yield  
June 1991 - December 1992**

Groups of species	Kilograms per TAB
Shrimp	378
Cephalopodes	378
Fish	425
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.180</b>

Source: EU Report on the Fishery Cooperation Agreement  
Guinea-Bissau /EU.  
EU, Brussels, May 1993.

In the working and project materials for future Protocol of Fishery Agreement EU/Guinea-Bissau for June 1995 - June 1997, the EU proposes the use of the following fishing fleets:

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| a) Shrimp      | 11,000 TAB   |
| b) Cephalopods | 6,000 TAB  |
| c) Tuna        | 20 purse-seiners<br>12 tuna longliners and pole and liners |

The EU does not expect Guinea-Bissau to require a license for fish harvest as part of the Agreement because of the by-catch during the shrimp and/or cephalopods catching.

c) Projection of annual catch: EU

Consequently, EU's trawling fleet operation in the EEZ can potentially harvest the following tonnage/year.

Potential EU fleet Annual Yields based on the EU/ Guinea-Bissau Agreement 1994/1995			
Groups of Species	Total TAB	Yield participation (coefficient)	Annual Potential Yield (tons)
Shrimp	17.000	0.378	6,426
Cephalopodes	17.000	0.378	6,426
Other Species	17.000	0.425	7,225
<b>Total</b>	<b>17.000</b>	<b>1.18</b>	<b>20,000</b>

Source: Tables

The above table shows that if the government of Guinea-Bissau accepts the EU demands for the establishment of the 17,000 TAB for shrimp caught in the 12 to 200-mile zone, it will result in an effort three times greater than can be handled by the resources. The immediate result will be overfishing and depletion of the shrimp stocks.

#### d) Relationship between TAB and shrimp yield capacity

The relationship between the TAB and the EU foreign fleet yields operating in the Guinean waters can be illustrated by using the example and statistical data collected from the EU shrimpers. We had the following information sources:

a) Data from the Department of Statistics, Industrial Fisheries Department, Ministry of Fisheries, and

b) The EU report presented by the government of Guinea-Bissau in 1993.

The following Table was prepared based on a comparison between the TAB for the Spanish, Italian and Portuguese shrimp fleets licensed to operate in 1992 and 1993, the annual shrimp yields and the period of fishery activity in the EEZ.

The data provided by the EU and by the Ministry of Fisheries is not complete, particularly the most recent material. Among the most critical deficiencies of the information supplied by both sources are the lack of continuity and uniformity of the data provided by

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the Ministry of Fisheries and the superficiality of the material furnished by the EU. An additional problem with the EU material is the lack of clarity and tonnage of yields that do not match the number of vessels used and the period of fishery activities. This leads to the conclusion that the veracity of this information is questionable. For example, the Report indicates two levels of yields for Italy in 1992: 315 or 811, or a TAB for shrimp of 11.863. This information does not match the levels for the licenses bought by the EU operators for that year.

Table 3 summarizes the available information from several sources and leads to the conclusion that the EU fleet caught more than 5 000 tons of shrimp in 1993.

## PROPOSAL FOR THE AGENDA OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION

1. NEGOTIATIONS OF THE EXCESS OF SHRIMP TAB 1993/1994 (POSSIBLY EARLIER AGREEMENTS).
2. SHRIMP, CEPHALOPODS AND FISH CATCH QUOTAS FOR 1995 AND 1996
3. DISCUSSION ON TUNA FISHING
  - A) PAYMENT OF LICENSE PER VESSEL (COMPENSATION OF \$300 ECU)
  - B) PAYMENT PER TON OF CAUGHT TUNA (\$20 ECU PER TON)
  - C) TUNA FISHERY STATISTICS BY VESSEL TYPE
    - TUNA PURSE SEINERS
    - LOGLINERS
    - POLE AND LINERS
  - D) RENEGOTIATION OF LICENSES FEES FOR TUNA ( ACCORDING TO MARKET VALUE AND FROM 5 TO 10% OF THIS AMOUNT TO GUINEA-BISSAU)
  - E) SUPPLY OF MONTHLY STATISTICAL DATA DURING THE TUNA HARVEST
  - F) LIMITATION ON TUNA HARVEST
  - G) ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM
4. LICENSE FEES DIVERSIFIED ACCORDING TO:
  - A) FOREIGN FISHERIES NOT BASED IN BISSAU
  - B) FOREIGN FISHERIES BASED IN BISSAU
  - C) ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES WITH DIRECT BENEFITS TO THE GUINEA-BISSAU AND GUINEAN CITIZENS:
    1. FREIGHTED VESSELS
    2. FOREIGN FLEETS FLYING GUINEAN FLAG

- 3. 100%-OWNED GUINEAN VESSELS
- 4. JOINT-VENTURE VESSELS
- 5. OTHER FORMS OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH GUINEAN PARTNERS

5. DEFINITION OF LIMITS ON TAB AND THE FISHING SEASON FOR:

- TRAWLERS           - SHRIMP
- FISH
- CEPHALOPODS

NO LIMITS (TO DATE) FOR THE FISHING OF PELAGIC SPECIES

6. PRECISE DEFINITION OF TAC/ TAB ANNUAL AVERAGE PER VESSEL AND OTHER ASPECTS OF FISHERY EFFORTS

7. COMPENSATION SUPPORT FOR:

- ADMINISTRATION
- ARTESANAL FISHERIES
- ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM

**ROUNDTABLE MEETING****INDEX**

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## INTRODUCTION

This is a report on the roundtable conference "**Fishery Resource Management in Guinea-Bissau,**" held on March 30, 1996 at the Auditorium of the TIPS in Bissau.

The roundtable was promoted by the Ministry of Fisheries and the TIPS Project, at the end of Dr. Vladimir Kaczynski's visit, TIPS consultant for the fishery sector. The purpose of the meeting was to create an opportunity for an open, frank dialogue between the representatives of private sector companies and public institutions participating in the event. The event would be an opportunity to discuss existing problems for the management of the fishery resources in Guinea Bissau and examine the recommendations presented by Dr. Vladimir Kaczynski and the technicians at the Ministry of Fisheries. Those suggestions could be used as the cornerstone for the management plan. Among the topics discussed in the meeting, special emphasis was put on the following themes: the establishment of quotas by using a combination of the TAC and TAB criteria, conservation of fishery resources at a sustainable level for the future benefit of Guinea-Bissau and countries operating in the EEZ, raise the income of the Guineans working in the fishery sector, support of an enforcement system, and the existing constraints restricting Guineans from achieving their objectives.

The main objective of this meeting was, on one hand, to analyze the recommendations suggested in the document "**New Orientations on the National Fishery Policy,**" developed by a workgroup constituted by technicians from the Ministry of Fisheries and by Dr. Vladimir Kaczynski last year and, on the other hand, evaluate and discuss some recommendations to improve the management of the fishery resources in Guinea-Bissau .

### Concerns of the participants:

In short, the following were the major concerns raised by the participants:

- Definition of a policy to make the most out of the existing structure in the fishery sector;
- Definition of the criteria for quota distribution;
- Establishment a connection between the artesanal and industrial fishery sectors and their relationship to the Management Plan;

- Consensus that it is necessary to create a Management Plan for the subregion, without which it will not be worthwhile to take cautionary environmental measures if the same is not done by neighboring countries;
- FAO's representative expressed the organization willingness support initiatives to improve the management of the fishery resources;
- Modernization of the dockyards in Bissau so that they can adequately meet the requirements for the repair of the fishing vessels in the country;
- Development of a Guinean-owned fleet due to the contribution that this fleet can give as support to the enforcement activities:
- Need to study the issue of special fees for Guinean ships;
- Need to expand surveillance operations;
- Issues of questionable credibility of the information on overfishing, the data and its relationship with the study conclusions;
- How to put the Fisheries Management Plan into effect and means for a small country like Guinea-Bissau to protect its resources;
- Pressure created by the Fisheries Management Plan on the state budget;
- The constraints and burdens of a bureaucratic system that requires three signatures for a fishing license;
- Quantification of the costs and benefits subject to the adoption of the Fisheries Management Plan;
- Revitalization of previous initiatives regarding the creation of effective artisanal or industrial fishery companies;
- Need to analyze the fisheries sector under the perspective of collective endeavor and not of an isolated effort by the sector;
- Need to ensure the new port to be build will not be a simple dockyard;
- Exploitation of the concept of Association of Temporary Companies within the frame of the agreement with the EEC;
- Drainage and sign posting in the canal;
- Elimination of the exportation fee (general fees charged by customs) and their substitution by fees on the importation of some luxury products;
- Elimination of the BRPE's and other formalities for the exportation of traditional products;
- Need to better explore the possibilities of the leasing system for the creation of the national fishery fleet;
- Consensus on infrastructure problems, as for instance the fishing port and land support installations to be built.



**Discourse by TIPS coordinator Mr. John Blacken**

Ambassador **John Blacken** opened the roundtable meeting by introducing the participants, and welcomed everyone.

Mr. Blacken made a brief explanation of the objectives of the meeting saying that, for the last twenty years, fishery resources have been the main source of foreign currency and revenue in Guinea-Bissau. As the main source of revenue and, as a consequence, of high interest to the country and to foreign operators, the marine stocks have been explored without limitations or control. In the last four years there was a decline in yield volume and size, which indicates excessive activity and overfishing.

In 1995, the Ministry of Fisheries proposed the introduction of the Fisheries Management Plan with the objectives to prevent the destruction of the stocks, maintain the commercial importance of this resource and increase the socioeconomic benefits to the country. It is with this goal in mind that TIPS has been contributing to the plan. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the concepts and the basic elements that are to be included in the Management Plan.

**Discourse by the representative of the Private Sector and President of the AENP (National Association of Fishery Companies), Antônio Ferrage**

Mr. Antonio Ferrage, President of the AENP (National Association of Fishery Companies), thanked the opportunity to participate in another meeting between the private sector, the State and fishery sector-related institutions.

He mentioned the reasons for the creation of the Association in 1991 by the initiative of fisheries sector entrepreneurs and its later legalization in 1992. Representing the association, these entrepreneurs have met with government representatives several times to find a common solution to existing problems in the sector. He noted that, unfortunately, the fisheries sector is currently going through a situation of impasse in the private sector. Naturally, the association does not expect this meeting to solve all the impasses and restraints encountered by the private sector. However, he said, it could serve as an opportunity to demonstrate some important actions that hopefully will be taken in conjunction with state departments; such actions could permit the fisheries sector to develop a relevant role in the process of development of the country.

Currently, there is much talk about a Guinean-owned fleet. When there is talk about the development of a Guinean-owned fleet there is usually the understanding that there will be a total

substitution of the foreign fleet by a Guinean-owned fleet. However, in spite of the fact that solution would be ideal, it is still very early to think of the creation of a Guinean-owned fleet because the implementation of these ideas depends on the philosophy of the government and, in particular, the Ministry of Fisheries. Without government support, there could be no increment or advancement in the sector that could lead to the creation of this fleet.

According to him, it will be necessary to define tonnage and type of vessels economically profitable for the private sector. A profitability study must be conducted before the creation of this fleet in order to determine which vessels are economically profitable. It must be taken into account that the fisheries sector has faced many problems, ranging from lack of supplies and skilled labor, vessel maintenance and repairwork, etc. Without the infrastructure, the proper development of the sector in the country's economy will be difficult. It is extremely necessary and urgent that the existing fishery installations in Guinea-Bissau be rehabilitated to permit the optimum working conditions of the national companies and, thus, make them competitive against foreign companies. To force foreign vessels to unload their yields in the Guinean ports would be one way to capitalize the conservation and processing infrastructure of the private sector, until the country had enough capital to create its own fleet. A good example is the case of Senegal, where foreign fleets operating in its territorial waters are obliged to unload their yields and have them processed there. Many Senegalese companies have been able to capitalize in this manner, just by using their own existing infrastructure, processing and exporting their products.

In the current economic Guinean context, there are no extra assets to be allotted as credit for the creation of a Guinean-owned fleet, because this would ultimately generate a very high cost for each fishing vessel. Nevertheless, the rehabilitation of the infrastructure of these companies is one of the main concerns of the fisheries sector. A better solution would be to try to capitalize in whatever other possible way, but by taking at small steps at a time. The processing of the yields or the implementation of a rehabilitation program for the existing infrastructure does not mean that the private sector must own a fishing vessel or a fleet. That would be one way to make advancements in the sector, without specifically defining the instruments for the production or the type of production by the vessels. This measure could serve to help create the Guinean-owned fleet later.

The creation of a Guinean-owned fleet has the very important role: the development of techniques that can be improved through years of experience in shipbuilding, fishing techniques and the technical and scientific evolution related to profitability. The formation of a skilled laborforce would be, in this case, an essential component of the whole process.

Capital for the Guinean private fisheries sector has yet to be created. The banking system does not respond requests for neither medium nor long-term credit applications. Nor does it possess enough resources in foreign currency available. This is one of the tightest strangulation points in the sector. Many operators prefer to have a foreign bank account than to depend on the banking industry in Bissau for a loan in foreign currency. They do this as a way ensure their need for hard currency loans will be met, in light of the fact that the Guinean banks do not have foreign currency

available to them. This is one the aspects that can lead to the strangulation of the private fishery sector, considering that fishing licenses and port fees are paid in foreign currency. The operators export their yields and have the right to receive a portion of the compensation in foreign currency. These and other factors block the development in the sector.

It is necessary to conduct a study to determine what actions are necessary to stimulate the implementation of the leasing system and importation of technology and capital. Diverse forms of chartering could be used as a way to sidestep such difficulties.

The government has demonstrated good will and determination to interfere less in the economy by promoting the privatization process and trusting other forms of intervention in the country's economy to the private sector. Such policy was not observed in the fisheries sector, but recent government actions lead the private entrepreneurs to believe that the Minister of Fisheries will give his support to private sector.

It is necessary to embrace a structure of change and to produce the necessary guidelines for the sector. The State must create conditions to enable these aspirations to actually unfold. It must support the private initiatives and define medium and long-term policies for the sector. It would be important to create a professional technical office to focus on policies for the sector in order to support the sector and make it more dynamic. This professional technical office would analyze and support the execution of investment projects and follow-up the initial phases of project financing.

The private sector lacks capital and needs to start greater collaboration with the State to improve this situation and turn the private fishery sector into a partner for the development of solutions and the implementation of internal and external measures.

Mr. Ferrage expressed his satisfaction with the fact that, for the first time, the Ministry of Fisheries gave the private sector the opportunity to participate in the negotiations for the fishery agreement between the European Union and the government of Guinea-Bissau. He congratulated the Minister for the admirable initiative, that demonstrates good intentions on the government's part to promote the sector and, in conjunction with the private sector, try to solve the issues of the fisheries sector in Guinea-Bissau .

However, he also stressed that there are other initiatives that the Ministry of Fisheries and other State departments could support as, for instance, the advertising of existing credit lines and the legal conditions for credit application. It would be a good idea to inform the sector of the amounts of the financing destined to the private sector.

In closing, Mr. Ferrage presented the following recommendations:

- Considerable reduction for fishing license fees for the national vessels. It is widely known by the private sector entrepreneurs that these reductions are a matter of fact and this reduction will bring benefits the private sector;
- Definition of a realistic financing policy and institutional support from the Ministry to grant credit on a national and international level;
- Abolition of customs fees and other exportation fees;

These are the greatest problems the sector will encounter in the future because of those current obstacles. People in private sector would not like to be forced to enter into illegal practices. That is why the Association is asking for fair and legal support. The sector wants the State to grant it the basic, necessary conditions. The entrepreneurs, he emphasized, are capable people willing to work hard. And, for being a very important sector for the country's economy and, if given the basic conditions, the fishery products could be exported with greater revenue and benefit to the country as a whole;

- A considerable reduction on port fees that are currently very high if we want vessels to dock at the Guinean port in the near future;
- Suppression of the use of the "Boletim de Registro Prévio de Exportação" of fishery resources or the simplification of the process. The institutionalization of the exportation fees is a measure that could halt the development of the sector;
- Less bureaucracy on the technical and administrative levels, particularly at the Ministry, and the improvement of banking services;
- The Government must guarantee the continuous training of a skilled laborforce with the aid of foreign institutions.

#### **Discourse by the Representative of the Public Sector, Minister Artur Silva**

The Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Artur Silva, began his discourse by thanking the invitation to participate in the meeting and said that he is open to any discussion that will enable the country to find solutions for the fisheries sector. He said that it is time the State and the private sector join their efforts to find ways to improve the performance of the fisheries sector. Its goals must be redirected and its management policies changed. Certain measures need to be urgently implemented, but it is also necessary to recognize that there are some measures the government will not be able to bring about simply because there are not enough resources available.

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The private sector must do its share and allow the State to fulfill all its obligations. People in general, and entrepreneurs in particular, do not pay their taxes. The Minister asked where the state will collect the resources to implement all the necessary improvements for the proper operation of the system. According to him, the problem does not lie in the licenses themselves, but in the existing structure and in the philosophy that people have adopted in the country. Guinea-Bissau does not have the necessary infrastructure, and many are that actions and measures that must be taken altogether throughout the country.

In his opinion, it is not a role of the State to participate directly in the production sector, but to organize the sector and, thus, create proper conditions for its operation. The State's role is to create infrastructure to be used by the production sectors and allow its expansion.

It is necessary to devise a Fishery Management Plan to determine the yield capacity of the fishery resources.

He also informed that, until the week before, 108 licenses had been granted for 80 vessels. The problem is that current stock levels cannot comport the operation of 80 vessels. Furthermore, there is a problem that fleet operators, Guinean or foreign, prefer to buy shrimp licenses instead of fish and Cephalopods licenses. It is necessary to determine if current stocks will adequately satisfy that demand. This question can only be answered when a study is carried out to determine the potential shrimp stock. The research will be done in April/May and October/November of this year, with the objective to determine yield potentials.

He said that, at that time, the ongoing negotiations in Bissau between the EEC and Guinea-Bissau would consider the redefinition of the licensing process. He thinks that the definition of potential yields, and in particular, of shrimp yields, will contribute to correct many irregularities.

However, other than shrimp catching, there is also the related issues of cephalopods and fish catching. If the vessels continue their practice of catching more shrimp than fish and other species it will eventually cause an environmental imbalance. This year, as established by the management plan, attempts will be made to correct that irregularity and create an environmentally sound situation.

A set of legislative packages will be prepared, starting with fishing regulations, planned to be presented in two weeks. The legislation was revised last year, but because the regulations were missing then it was not finished. Now, with FAO's support, it will be ready shortly.

On the institutional level, the Ministry of Fisheries needs to adopt an organic law. The Ministry used to have many general directors. The new governmental policy has restricted it to two general directors and one autonomous director who is at the CIPA (Center of Investigation of Applied Fishery). The minister said that, once the preparation of the organic law is finished, the issue of excessive bureaucracy may be solved. The excess of bureaucracy has reached the point that the granting of a fishing license is subjected to the signature of three Ministries (Fisheries, Finances

and Banking). It is necessary to eliminate that excess and simplify the expedition of documents. Supposedly, once the judicial and institutional problems are solved, some of the problems in the private sector will also be resolved.

The organic law has already been discussed at the Ministry sphere and it is, at this time, being prepared for presentation, discussion, and approval by the Ministry Council.

It is necessary to revise the values of the license fees and lower them. Presently the fee for national vessels is US\$ 130 by TAB and it will be reduced to less than 50% (between 40 to 45 per cent of the current value).

Other than the problem with the licenses there are many other as, for instance, fuel, the dockyards, the port, and the activities of the fishing fleet in Guinea-Bissau. There is a set of obstacles that need to be resolved and removed.

There is much talk about the Guinean-owned fleet, but it is necessary to consider that this is an issue that is not easily resolved. The foreign fleets cannot be simply exchanged by a Guinean-owned fleet in one day. Foreign fleets bring nearly 14 million dollars a year into this country's economy and all of us are aware that existing Guinean companies do not have the capacity to generate those figures and cannot substitute the foreign fleet at this time.

The concept of national company is completely mistaken and, to this date no company, private or State-owned, has contributed for development in the sector. In many cases companies do not pay monies they owe the State.

Ministry of Fisheries technicians have worked hard to improve the performance of this country's economy. They have tried to find effective solutions to its problems.

As the banking system cannot respond to sector's needs, there have been initiatives to bring other resources to the sector. As determined by the cooperation agreement with China-Taiwan, the government will receive nearly two million dollars for the creation of credit lines. However, the Minister said that there is a serious problem with the credit system in Guinea-Bissau. The system failed; it did not work. The Guinean people did not act as the government expected. He emphasized that the same mistakes must not be repeated. Funding for projects has been deposited in Guinean banks for almost a year. Adequate use is presently being discussed. Five hundred thousand dollars will be destined to the construction of the fishing port in Bissau, a fundamental step for the development of the fishery activities in the country. This port will include all the indispensable requirements, such as docks, cold-storage installations, shipyard, warehouses, etc. A national project financed with government funds and donations partially unused, is scheduled to begin in order to start the construction of this port. Other contributions include donations from the EU for the Stabex funds of about 6 thousand dollars, 500 thousand allocated from the Taiwan funds, a contribution

from BAD and a contribution from the government. In principle, the work will begin this year, as soon as the cleaning of the area is finished. The port will be localized in Bandim.

Only after the construction of this infrastructure we will be able to seriously think of a national fisheries sector.

At that time the protocol of the agreement with the EEC was under negotiation. The negotiations had been arduous because, said the Minister, it was time Guinea-Bissau began to impose its conditions and stopped accepting outside impositions and directives. He reminded that the role of the Government was to help the development of the country, not hurt it. He said that it would be advisable, however, to be aware of the crisis that the fisheries sector had been going through in all countries. Currently, great-scale aquaculture is practiced in many countries, resulting in the existence of seafood substitutes. Countries without a natural access to marine resources have successfully developed this practice. He noted that, at that moment the price of seafood in the international market was dropping. He remarked that, it was about time the government of Guinea-Bissau and Guinean entrepreneurs started thinking of other alternatives and not simply extract their resources from the sea.

Another very important problem to consider is the worldwide environmental situation, which makes all these problems interconnected.

Regarding the issue of Boletins de Exportação, he said that the government does not charge an exportation fee, but the exportation rights. He said that a form of compensation is necessary. For example, in Mauritania, the exportation tax was abolished but the State collects a percentage of the sale of yields. In that country, the entire process of sale of yields follows normal channels. That is not the case in the Guinea-Bissau.

At the end of his discourse he made an appeal to everyone to analyze the problem globally since the interconnectedness of the world does not allow a country to act alone.

#### **Discourse by the TIPS consultant, Dr. Vladimir Kaczynski**

TIPS consultant, Dr. Vladimir Kaczynski made a presentation about the management of fishery resources in Guinea-Bissau.

He said that there is little scientific information on the country's fisheries sector and stressed that the current situation is alarming. The environment presents signs of overfishing and the State budget is heavily dependent on the revenue from the sale of fishing licenses. There is virtually no management of the resources nor consistent fishery policies.

In order to correct this deplorable situation, Dr. Kaczynski suggested two alternatives:

a) Implementation of a fisheries management policy based on scientific data regarding:

- The situation of commercial stocks;
- Bio-oceanographic changes;
- Fishery efforts;
- The effects and consequences of fishery activities on the migration of marine living resources on a subregional level;

b) The current situation of the country, in which resource management will be executed under indeterminate conditions and weak scientific basis, characterized by:

- lack of fundamented, continuous and global oceanographic investigation;
- little scientific credibility of the available data on fishery activities;
- inability to treat and translate the existing data into a language of fishery policy and management;
- insufficient and ineffective control of the exploration of resources and weak surveillance of the country's waters;
- the complexity of the tropical marine environment when compared to the cold zone environment;
- natural climate variations deteriorating as a result of overfishing.

He pointed out, however, that there is no biological model on a global scale for the management of the tropical resources and, also, that it is very difficult to diagnose the state of the fishery resources in Guinea-Bissau. For that reason, he recommended immediate conservation measures to remedy the situation, regardless of scientific data availability. He also suggested the application of socioeconomic and multidisciplinary criteria and stressed that the government of Guinea-Bissau must not wait for the results of scientific research or additional studies to start restricting excessive fishing in the EEZ. He said that marine biologists and field-related scientists can recognize the problems created by overfishing but do not have the answers to them.

In addition, he said that human motivation must be considered as an integral part of the management of fishery resources. He explained that the destruction of commercial stocks is caused by the inadequate measures of management and conservation (lack of vision) and by the market forces (compelled by greed, search for protein and high prices in the international market). Dr.



Kaczynski stressed that the lack of vision on the long term and greed, combined with the growing pressures of foreign fleets are the main causes for that crisis.

According to him it is very important to stimulate basic research (along with CIPA's applied research) and that it is necessary to consider some factors and have them included in the Management Plan:

- a) Established international agreements;
- b) Consumption and markets in the industrialized nations, namely, Japan, the European Union and the United States.
- c) Economic and financial factors, in particular, the need for foreign capital and investment credit.

Then, he explained the basic concepts regarding the Management Plan:

1. What is a Management Plan?
2. Is a Management Plan necessary?
3. What are the practical measures to be implemented by the Plan?

The Management Plan, he explained, is an agreement between parties related and interested in the exploitation and the conservation of the fishery resources in Guinea-Bissau. He assured that the Management Plan is extremely necessary and highlighted the fact that entities connected to the fisheries sector must have an ample view of their objectives and responsibilities, and also apply a very strict discipline in the management of the resources. He said that the plan considers many interests and the need to conserve and protect the fishery resources and serve as a legal instrument of fishery policy.

Regarding the measures that must be taken, he said that it is indispensable:

- to establish the TAC (Total Allowable Capture) for each group of commercially valuable species;
- to define catch quotas of TAC for each species, highlighting that the TAB criteria is destructive and impossible to manage;
- to exploit the resources according to their availability and avoid, at all costs, excessive licensing;
- to create licensing criteria using, as a basic criterion, the degree of integration of the activity in the economy and the socioeconomic benefits to the country, giving absolute priority to national companies.

Emphasis was put on the idea that this Management Plan must create incentives for investments in Guinea-Bissau and that the fees must be diversified according to this criterion. He also explained that such criterion should be accompanied by surveillance, legislative and administrative measures and by a code of investment.

To conclude, he said that his objective, and particularly of that meeting, was to present further suggestions and recommendations and, also, evaluate important aspects of the Management Plan. He called the attention of the participants once again for the alarming situation of the fishery resources in Guinea-Bissau. On one hand, there is growing budgetary dependency on the revenue from the sale of licenses, while, on the other hand the quantity (Kg/day) and size of the resources, shrimp in particular, have steadily grown smaller.

## DEBATES

The first participant to speak was **Mr. João Vaz**, who agreed with the idea of matching funds from the national companies. He raised the issue of granting licenses to Guinean companies that are not competent to operate. He asked that much attention be given to the dossiers of projects for the creation of joint-ventures. He asked the reason for the GuinéPesca vessels, operating in Guinea-Bissau for the last five years, to have never brought their catches for sale to the domestic market. He asked if Guinean inspectors can actually control fishery activities on foreign vessels since, because of their low wages, there is corruption the moment they set foot onboard.

He asked TIPS representative to continue to aid the country and the Ministry of Fisheries to offer professional training to the workforce. Guinea-Bissau is still very dependent on foreign countries, he said, and requested financing for personnel training. He pointed out that funding was granted but there had been no training available to people interested. He recognized that the surveillance of the country waters without human resources is difficult.

**Mr. Nelson Dias** was concerned with the paradoxical situation of countries like Guinea-Bissau, inserted into a complex macroeconomic conjuncture, solely dependent on the exploitation of its natural resources. He asked what measures and forms could more realistically reconcile the need to explore the country's natural resources and the dangers of environmental destruction.

He reiterated that Dr. Kaczynski proposed the conservation of the resources in order to maintain a long-term development in the fishery sector and that the national budget is greatly dependent on revenues from the fishery sector, and noted that the volume of catches is continuously declining. He asked what was the connection between the exploration in terms of artisanal fishery and the conservation schedule in the rest period of shrimp capture in the open sea and or spawning periods in the in the mangrove regions. In addition, he pointed out that, as Dr. Kaczynski had explained, since there is no Management Plan of the resources on the subregional level and, since fish migrate, he asked **what would be the use of an environmentally conscientious attitude of a**

geographically well positioned country like Guinea-Bissau in taking all these cautionary measures if the neighboring countries in the subregion are not concerned with the situation. Perhaps a subregional cooperation project could be an alternative for the solution of the problems of the fishery sector. The marine living resources are not confined so that there is no way to implement some of the measures. He asked what solutions Dr. Kaczynski proposed.

**Ms. Guilhermina Soares**, FAO's representative said that many documents prepared by FAO could be used in the fishery sector and asked if there are ways to combined the director plan for the existing Artesanal Fisheries Sector with the Fisheries Management Plan and the Industrial Fishery Plan currently being executed. These two plans are key elements for the sector. She said she would like to learn how they could be articulated with the new proposal.

**Mr. Seco N'Chassó** addressed maintenance of the fishing fleet and asked what if it is necessary to build a floating dockyard since there are already two shipyards in Bissau. He asked if new shipyards are going to be build there or if existing ones will be rehabilitated. He called the attention to the fact that most of the fishers take their vessels for repairs or maintenance to neighboring countries diverting critically needed foreign currency. He asked for more support to the navy and the improvement of the surveillance system.

**Mr. Zamora** said that the surveillance is very important and that it should not be solely and exclusively the responsibility of the Ministry of Fisheries. According to him, it is a national task, a responsibility of all citizens, and therefore, the collaboration of all sector-related organisms.

**Mr. José Antônio** focused his dissertation on the conservation of fishery products and the reduction in the exploration of the resources. He said that it would be desirable to establish surveillance policies and introduce a better wage policy for inspectors.

Regarding the construction of port facilities, he asked if there will be open bidding to private companies or if it the works will be executed under the custody of the State. In his opinion it should be by through a bid process in light of so many examples of projects poorly executed by the State. He highlighted the need to train a workforce for the fishery sector. He also said that he finds port fees too expensive.

He asked that, other than the artesanal fishery, attention be given to the basic improvements needed in the Navy and asked that with the creation of a Guinean-owned fleet, there will be discounts for vessels docking in Bissau.

**Mr. Lídio** asked what were the policies for the application of TAC and TAB criteria.

**Mr. Diniz** asked for a definition of a Guinean-owned fleet. He asked Mr. Kaczynski what was the solution for the problems that have been identified and how is overfishing justified.

**Mr. Filinto Barros** said that Dr. Kaczynski mentioned that the Ministry of Fisheries data was not credible and that one could deduct that conclusions based on inaccurate data is also inaccurate. He asked for ways to set forth a plan to conserve fishery resources if the country is unable to defend itself from the abuses of nations that are not at all interested that developing nations be able to defend themselves. He said that it is necessary to find a way to call the attention of all countries member of the ACP and the world in general for the degradation of the environment. Then, he asked if Guinea-Bissau could fight alone to defend its resources. He said he agreed with the process set forth by Canada that, in spite of not being an exemplary country on the issue, has at least been calling the attention of the public opinion to the excessive and abusive practices of exploration of fishery resources.

Then he asked how could the Ministry of Fisheries have the freedom to act condignantly during negotiations with the EU if Guinean budgetary problems have been solved with the help of the EU. He said that there have been instances in which funding for the fishery sector was used by the Treasure without previous negotiation of the Fishery Agreement. He suggested that countries in the region and the members of the ACP in general fight in unison and not separately during these negotiation with the powerful EU.

Still concerning Dr. Kaczynski's plan, he said that regarding the financing system for the creation of a Guinean-owned fleet, he finds that the study presented is based on facile presuppositions and that it seemed to him the private sector would not be running great risks.

Regarding the excessive bureaucracy, he asked if the current Ministry will be able to do away with a bureaucratic system that requires signatures from three Ministers for a fishing license.

**Mr. Morais Santos** agreed with the Management Plan presented, but posed the following questions to Dr. Kaczynski:

- Does the country have conditions and capacity to follow the orientations and recommendations that he proposed?
- Does the country have the means to implement such policy?
- Is the situation presented realistic for Guinea-Bissau, because of the interest struggle with powerful foreign countries not minimally interested in helping Guinea-Bissau? That is why the surveillance of the waters has never been ideal;
- Will the 1995 Plan only cover the industrial sector and not the artesanal fishery?

He inquired if the 95% of the national wealth the foreign operators take away from Guinea-Bissau is in terms of marketing of the products or in terms of catch potential;

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He stated that Dr. Kaczynski said the country needs to take immediate action for the conservation of resources, but has not said what specifically needs to be done and inquired what were the advantages to implement the measures Dr. Kaczynski proposes; in his opinion a comparative study of cost/benefit must be done and suggested that, since it has been common to hold international conferences, an event for the fishery sector is organized in Guinea-Bissau, and. He said he finds it impossible for the underdeveloped nations to bring about a change in the situation.

Referring to the Ministry of Fisheries discourse, he said that the Ministry itself has created the situation that it now encounters regarding the existence of the national companies and the lack of matching funds. Many projects that were submitted to the Ministry were not properly analyzed and many were not followed-up. Many entrepreneurs have submitted projects and had no response. There have been situations in which there was the strangulation of good initiatives and many companies that were not able to start their operations had to close their doors and many of the administrators of these companies ended up in prison.

He thinks that the current situation is favorable and, that certainly, in the next years there will be better conditions for the operation of these companies.

He said that it is advisable to improve the infrastructure because, without it, the vessels will not unload their yield in the Guinean ports.

In his opinion, the Minister himself must be the bearer of the concerns of the representatives at this meeting, the agents of the fishery sector and their counterparts in the government.

He said that the construction of the new fishing port is a praiseworthy initiative, that the connection of licenses must be eased, licenses and dues reduced and that there must be a definition of what are fishery companies.

He thinks that the medium-term creation of a Guinean-owned fleet will be impossible, and that the option of the creation of temporary associations of fishery company should be taken regarding the EEC aid, transformed into a joint venture later and then into national companies.

**Mr. Mario Mendonça** emphasized that there are all sorts of difficulties and that this is public knowledge. The problem is in the system in general and not only in the Ministry of Fisheries. It is necessary to improve the port infrastructure, to fight for the preservation and conservation of the Guinean resources and to define the rules to guide the future of the fishery sector .

**Mr. Martinho** addressed the issue of special fees for Guinean entrepreneurs and reminded that port fees are charged in foreign currency but that the payment is made in weight by using the daily exchange rate. He wants a special fee for Guinean-owned vessels. He called the attention to the need to post signs in the canals.

Mr. Luis Duarte recommended the elimination of exportation fees and the case of the high exportation fees for the "coconote" that makes its exportation nearly not worthwhile, in light of its low price in the international market. He thinks BRP's are necessary, even if just for statistical reasons as it is, at times, alleged by the Ministry of Commerce.

Mr. Juldé said that the creation of the Guinean-owned fleet has had many problems and that it is necessary to adequate them to the country's current needs. He defended the private economic activity and asked Dr. Kaczynski what is the philosophy of the new management of the infrastructure.

Addressing the issue of skilled professional training he said that it is necessary to substitute the crews for Guinean nationals and to start giving them opportunity to work.

The Minister of Fisheries started answering these questions by explaining that foreign companies cannot participate in the establishment of companies that are either national or a joint-venture companies. In order for a company to be considered national and obtain a fishing license, it has to be, first of all, registered with the port authority and that is where the problems begins, according to him, because in order to register a vessels the owner must subside the vessel. Normally it is the foreign vessel owner that does that and it is rarely accepted. The port authority will grant a temporary vessel registration, that is accepted by the Ministry of Fisheries. However, other than the registration certificate, the vessels must also be registered as a company asset because the license is not granted to individuals but to the vessels and the responsibility for the vessels lies on the company.

In the previous investment code there was an allotment between 51 and 40%, but the current one says that the national partner can detain most of the social capital of the company. In this way, it is the regimen of the vessel that is considered for the licensing and, most of the time, those prerequisites are not fulfilled. That is the reason licenses are not granted. However, the Ministry said that operators use freighting as an option and the national company can freight a foreign fishing vessel. But the Ministry recommended that the companies never accept a value below 30% because they will loose money since they are the ones who will be paying for the licenses.

He said that the problem of national entrepreneurs is the lack of capital. They need to self-finance their enterprises and initial capital and cannot wait for the State to do everything for them.

No license fees are charged to the Guinean artesanal fishers and the fees for national industrial operators will be reduced. These measures will not solve all the problems in the sector and, therefore, it is necessary to carry out a variety of other measures.

Regarding the issue of Guinean-owned fleet, he informed that there are human resources available, but they lack the experience and technical capacity. He cited the example of the Chinese project and the issue that Guinean nationals were only willing to work in steel, not in wooden vessels. He

said that people get trained and then begin to impose their requirements and they forget that there are steps that need to be followed. It is the port authority that grants the license, not the Ministry of Fisheries. Furthermore, the international rules and legislation must be followed.

Regarding the issue of conflicts between national and foreign partners, he maintained that they must be handled by the justice, that it is not the role of the Ministry to handle them and that the Ministry should not and will not interfere in such cases.

He said that there is an artisanal fishery director plan elaborated with FAO's support and that there is another being prepared by the Ministry staff with the collaboration of the experts from BAD. The first phase of this plan was discussed in the Ministry and is ready. The Ministry will compose a national plan that will incorporate aspects of the artisanal fishery as well as of the industrial fishery.

In his opinion, the Fishery Management Plan is very important and it will establish quotas, limitations and conditions for the exploration of the resources. It will be in resonance with the national development plan for the fishery sector. The second phase of BAD's project, that is being finalized with TIPS support, has started. With all these elements in hand, he said, the Ministry of Fisheries will be able to make a final decision and will produce a final document that will serve all Guineans.

Regarding the ship repair yard, he informed that without proper infrastructure the vessel owners cannot be forced to come to Guinea-Bissau. There are two shipyards (in Coméré and in Bissau) that are currently operating and he recommends the vessel owners to use their services, though he recognizes that the ship yards operate with great difficulty and that they need new equipment. He said that the ship yard is under the Ministry of Industry tutelage and it is their responsibility to solve this situation. With the privatization of Guinave many problems in the sector may be resolved.

Addressing the problem of surveillance, he said that it used to be regarded as a strictly military matter and therefore it never had the support of the EU. Countries operating in Guinea-Bissau waters refuse to finance the improvement of the surveillance system. That is why it is necessary to seek financing in countries that do not have any direct interest in the fishery in Guinea-Bissau. There is a project that, in principle, will be financed by Canada and additionally, he said that the government had invested four million dollars, through grants by Taiwan, for the acquisition of vedettes and personnel training.

It is necessary to demilitarize the surveillance services because, otherwise, it will be extremely difficult for the Ministry of Fisheries to make the surveillance. Another problem is the issue of sovereignty that, regarding surveillance of the fishery sector, needs to be inserted into a new context. In some countries the surveillance is done by private companies, such as in Sierra Leone, but in Guinea-Bissau there is wide mystification about the surveillance work. The view

that the surveillance is a way to make money must be transformed in a view that the role of the surveillance is to make sure the rules and regulations are followed so that the resources are adequately explored.

A commission formed by representatives from the Ministry of Fisheries, the Navy and Finances will be created to try to find a solution to the problems in the sector.

Regarding the surveillance personnel it is not a matter of low wages but of mentality, human behavior and honesty. The number of inspectors was lowered because there were too many and they were not serving the interests of the State and, consequently, the number was reduced to correspond the number of vessels operating in Guinea-Bissau. The Minister informed that a group from Luxembourg was to arrive in Bissau to train the surveillance team so that they could integrate aviation and navigational operations. In principle, this course will begin in May or June of this year and is part of a project signed in Gambia, estimated at four and a half million dollars. The possibility to transfer this project to Guinea-Bissau is being studied. The transference had already been discussed but the decision would be taken during the Conference of Ministries for the subregion. The implementation of this project can greatly improve the work conditions for the inspectors.

He said Mr. Filinto Barros had addressed pertinent issues and agreed that, at that moment, the only option to the country is to cooperate on a subregional level and to negotiate jointly with other countries in the subregion. Morocco had agreed to collaborate in this enterprise, and at that moment, the Guinea-Bissau and Morocco representatives were negotiating simultaneously with the EU. Guinea-Bissau and Morocco began negotiations with the EEC on Monday and both will finish on Saturday. The Minister informed that Morocco and the EU had not reached an agreement in Bissau till that afternoon that a consensus had not been reached. He stressed that the EU was a powerful force and that the collaboration between the two developing nations with the objective to pressure the international community was a good idea. The fishery agreement with the EU is an extremely important agreement to Guinea-Bissau, considering the enormous financial dependency of Guinea-Bissau's budget on the EU. According to him, the situation only tended to get worse, and reminded that the Minister had said that there is great disparity between the financial compensation the EU paid Guinea-Bissau and the compensation it paid neighboring countries with similar resources, such as Senegal. The negotiations of the agreement with the EU must be regarded as a national interest and not as a Ministry of Fisheries interest. Consequently, all private and public sector-related entities had been included in the negotiation process, such as the Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Finances, the Central Bank, The Ministry of International Cooperation, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The National Fishery Companies Association and National Shipping Offices. The current agreement is up on June 15 and there will be a second round of negotiations. The verbal process of this first round will be signed and there will be a period ending June 15 for debate and consensus. The conditions imposed by the EU are unacceptable, in his opinion. He mentioned that the Ministry of Fisheries had information that indicated that until 1994 the catch of shrimp was around eighty to 100 Kg/day and that at that time it was between 320 and 400 Kg/day. The Ministry had received information from different sources, particularly from the operators that used to fish in the Guinea-Bissau waters.




He addressed the issue of sailors and said it was a social problem, since the country is going through an unemployment crisis. He said that unemployed young men and women could be employed in the EU vessels operating in Guinea-Bissau, instead of allowing these ships to bring crews hired in other countries of the subregion. If the vessels of the EU come to Guinea-Bissau to fish, they must use Guinea-Bissau labor force or with nationals from countries with whom Guinea-Bissau signed agreements. We imposed these conditions and the EU has found that Guinea-Bissau was being too intransigent. However, in the agreement with Senegal the EU establishes such conditions and goes even further to say that the EU vessels will only be allowed to operate with Senegalese nationals and/or vessel nationality but never with crews from other countries with whom it has agreements. Guinea-Bissau is proposing the same guideline and the Ministry of Fisheries proposal has the objective to improve some aspects of the EU proposals, without neglecting the financial aspects that are extremely important. The agreement with the EU is very important and that, therefore, it was advisable to negotiate as a block, with the countries in the subregion. He said that isolated negotiations would bring no benefits to the countries, because they would lead to the submission to the demands of powerful nations.

In response to the Mr. Moraes Santos' question, he said that the Ministry is prepared to answer the proposals at the negotiating table. The commission will meet in April. He informed that the Republic of China-Taiwan will donate two million dollars to the Government of Guinea-Bissau, from which one million will be allocated to finance artisanal fisheries-related small business. At that time the Ministry was negotiating with the banks and had already received proposals from BIG and Totta & Açores that were being analyzed. The financing will be granted by the bank offering best conditions. Although the money belonged to the Ministry of Fisheries, the Ministry would be in charge only of the technical aspects. The bank would be in charge of the financial aspects of the transaction. However, the Ministry could recommend the bank not to grant credit to certain individuals who have a history of unpaid debts. Hopefully, the minister said, with the existence of this commission, the funds would be available. He informed that part of these funds, about one million dollars, would be allotted to the construction of the new port and that those interested in submitting projects to the Office of Studies at the Ministry of Fisheries. A subdivision had been created to analyze and appraise these projects.

He also informed that he had discussed the issue of posting signs with the port authority and that the resources generated by the sale of scrap from the vessels abandoned in the new port area would be given to the port authority for that purpose in the Geba canal. According to him the signalization was very important because the lack of signs has already caused many accidents.

He stressed the fact that entrepreneurs could not expect the State to do everything for them. He said that the experience with the fishery sector and the State was not good and that it was even worse with the private sector. The Bolola Complex, Cacheu, Semapesca and Bubaque, among so many others projects, failed. He said that they were part of a set of structural problems and mentality, not on an individual level, since everyone who worked in these companies was professionally and technically capable. There are problems in several instances, ranging from water, electricity, gas, personnel problems, and, according to him, the government has the important role



of educating the public on the issues of honesty and responsibility. The Ministry had decided to cut the number of national vessels from 100 to around thirty or forty vessels. It had been necessary to eliminate inhibiting factors that stragulate the development in the sector, as for example the lack of infrastructure, fuel, port shipyard facilities, fishing licenses, etc. He said that the government would try to create proper conditions but that the entrepreneurs in the private sector would have to make their own efforts and be up to the expectations. Credit would be granted to artesanal fisheries, without the usual requirements but he said that some conditions had to be fulfilled.


He said that the government expected that, since the Management Plan had been prepared in consonance with the National Fishery Plan, there would be a way to improve the management of the resources on a long-term basis. As Dr. Kaczynski had said, the resources in tropical waters are more complex than the resources in temperate climate. He said the country needed to care for its natural resources because, otherwise, in a few years, there would be serious problems. Some countries in the region already had problems, like Sierra Leone, that now allows fishing very close to the port. He mentioned the fact of the Guinea-Bissau's natural advantage, the Bijagós Island, that functions as a natural protective barrier and of convergence zone of two global currents, one northward from Angola and one southward from the Canary Islands.

He pointed out that a licensing policy without control would only devastate the fishery resources and said that, with the definition of the State and the private sector actions in the Management Plan, that situation would be corrected.

Addressing the issues concerning the leasing system, he said that it would be a very difficult action and that it did not have the expected positive effects, which resulted in the Ministry limiting access to it. The Ministry and the State itself would have to become better organized so that the private sector could also get organized.

Next, Mr. Antônio Ferrage answered the questions by the participants. He said that when he referred to the Guinean-owned fleet he was not referring to the artesanal fisheries but to industrial fisheries, as defined by the objectives of meeting, in other words, discuss the issue of the industrial foreign fleets operating in Guinea-Bissau.

He noted that there were people available in the sector, but that the industrial fishery sector had not operated properly, though there has been a skilled workforce available for the past ten years not employed by the companies and that, possibly, these individuals had already found work in other economic activities. By "training" it should be understood the updating of skills of these individuals to be integrated in the industrial national vessels as crew members. He asked the State to offer some of this training/updating. He did not know if the port authority had captains skilled to command the vessels. Ideally, he said, the entire crew would be made up of Guinean nationals. It would be necessary to guarantee that the vessels would operate at a 100% capacity. Therefore, the recurrent training would be recommended.



Concerning the Guinean-owned fleet, he was referring to the industrial vessels. In the event the country could purchase a national fleet, even if a small one, only then it would be possible to talk about a Guinean-owned fleet. Regarding the size of these vessels, he said that smaller vessels would be preferred for being more profitable rather than greater tonnage vessels, expensive to maintain and operate, because of the limited available resources in the country.

Regarding the issue of "Boletins de Importação," he said that the institutions related to it, should to locate the documents and analyze them with the objective to eliminate anomalies and excessive bureaucracy in the importation and exportation process.

He agreed with the view that there are no actual national companies in the country, but he said that some people working in the fishery sector now could become great managers at the future national companies. If the national operators could count on a minimal State support, even if they had to pay high license fees, they could greatly benefit because that would be a way to create incentives for other foreign operators to start joint-ventures companies with Guinean operators.

Dr. Kaczynski agreed with the recommendation to revise the mechanisms to respect the areas designated for artisanal fishing and to allow for periodic recesses in the exploration of the resources. The issue of the protection of the fishery resources in the EEZ had already been responded by the Ministry. He informed that there would be no Management Plan for the region, but that there were efforts to coordinate the legislation. Concrete measures to be taken were very difficult, but it seemed to him that the Ministry would try to negotiate more favorable agreements to increase revenue. The development of the industrial and artisanal fisheries in the country would be another way to find a solution to this problem because the 12-mile zone had not been heavily invaded and explored by the foreign fleets. He noted that there had been cases of industrial vessels operating in the artisanal fishing zones and reminded that resources were being overfished. He emphasized the need to take precautionary measures.

Regarding the issue of Total Allowable Catch, TAB and TAC, he said that a lot could be learned by using the statistical data on licenses applications from foreign fleets, using the gross tonnage of each vessel and the valid period of each license. That data plus the inexact information of daily catches and of other yields, the tonnage of the shrimper fleets could be calculated. With this in hand, it had been possible to conclude if the level of the resources would be fixed below the previous yields and, thus, calculate and determine the tonnage of the vessels necessary to catch that quota. These numbers could be subsequently translated into average vessels size, tonnage and numbers of vessels.

Concerning the issue of feasibility and realistic goals of the Management Plan, he emphasized that in spite of the fact that everyone was aware of the inherent difficulties for the implementation of the plan, its scope would be limited to a few measures as, for instance, the ones the Minister referred to earlier. It would not be possible to implement all of them simultaneously, but that, gradually, all of them would be implemented according to the conditions and results. The plan would be restricted and it is still necessary to define if artisanal and industrial fisheries would

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both be included in it or if there could be another way to combine them. It would be up to the Ministry to resolve this matter.

In closing, Mr. John Blacken thank everyone for their participation in the meeting. He said that since the independence of Guinea-Bissau to the present, the industrial and artesanal fisheries had always been regarded as separate and that, in spite of the financial resources applied in the artesanal fishery sector, there had not yet been any substantial positive result, because of the situations in the country that need resolution. And, now, for the first time, the Ministry was proposing a national policy that would be globally concerned with all issues and their interconnection. He said that it should be made clear that the plan would not solve all the problems in a short-term basis, but that it was a step toward the solution of the obstacles that exist in the fishery sector and that, in the future, things would be simpler. He said that there were seven measures to be immediately implemented to improve the management of the resources.

He accentuated the fact that it would be very important to start a debate with the countries in the subregion on surveillance issues, because isolated actions would have no success.

He ended the meeting by thanking everyone for their patience and participation in the meeting.

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## List of representatives present in the roundtable meeting

Name:	Organization
1. Artur Silva	Ministry of Fisheries
2. António Ferrage	ANEP
3. Carmen Neto	TIPS
4. Luis Duarte	Guitrans
5. Tito Cabal	Customs
6. Antôno Vaz	Customs
7. Maria Luísa Ramalho	Africargo Bissau, Lda.
8. Pfernando Tavares	Transmar Services
9. Mário Mendonça	Navy and Ports
10. Mário Maduro	Guiné Pescas
11. José Granadeiro	Clube G. E. Portugueses
12. Paulo Baranção	Ministry of Fisheries
13. Martinho Dafia Cabi	Ministry of Commerce
14. Macadú Juldé Baldé	INTERMAR, Lda.
15. Alúdio Santos	Ministry of Fisheries
16. José António Gonçalves	West Africa Trading, Lda
17. Munira Jauad	FAO Representative
18. Filinto Barros	USAID
19. Nelson Gomes Dias	UICN
20. Mussá Turé	TIPS
21. Carlos Jamanca	TIPS
22. Jorge Sobral	TIPS
23. Adrião Spencer Carvalho	BCGB
24. Dídio João da Costa	FiseMar
25. Jorge Fernandes	SOCOPROMAR
26. José Zamora I.	Navy
27. Gualdino H Silva	SINAMAR
28. Philippe Tous	CIPA
29. Lourival Zagonel	TIPS
30. Graciano Anildo Cruz	TIPS
31. Luís Malabe da Fonseca	IPA
32. Edmundo Vaz	TIPS
33. Armando Luís A.	DNMP
34. Diogo Castro Silva	C.E.G.P
35. Morais Santos	Consultant
36. Martinho da Costa Gomes	Guiport
37. Paulo Mendonça	MarGuiPort
38. Daniel Beaumont	FAO
39. Guilherme Soares	FAO
40. João Vaz	Guiné-Pescas
41. Canhão Veloso	C.E.G.P.
42. Jenifer Edwards	World Bank
43. César Ferrari	IMF Advisor/BCGB
44. Jim LaFleur	TIPS
45. John Blacken	TIPS
46. Josué Almeida	TIPS
47. Vladimir Kaczynski	Consultant/TIPS