

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS

— ICSF —



REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 1993-94 TO 1996-97

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Contents

BACKGROUND	1
PROGRAMME PRIORITIES 1993-97	2
MONITORING AND RESEARCH	3
<i>Impact of Aquaculture on Artisanal Fishing Communities</i>	3
<i>Women in Fisheries</i>	4
<i>Economic, Social and Ecological Implications of Gear Selectivity</i>	6
<i>Coastal Zone Activities, Displacement of Fishing Communities</i>	
<i>and New Management Regimes in Coastal Fisheries</i>	7
<i>Some Reflections</i>	8
EXCHANGE AND TRAINING	10
<i>Latin American Mission</i>	10
<i>Some Reflections</i>	11
CAMPAIGNS AND ACTION	11
<i>The Cebu Conference: Tenth Anniversary of the 1994 Rome Conference</i>	11
<i>Support to Fishworkers on Industrial Fishing Vessels</i>	12
<i>UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks</i>	
<i>and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks</i>	13
<i>FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries</i>	14
<i>Commission on Sustainable Development</i>	15
<i>Participation in FAO Meetings</i>	15
<i>Participation in the ILO Maritime Convention</i>	16
<i>Support to CFFA</i>	16
<i>30th Annual Conference of the Law of the Sea Institute</i>	17
<i>Vega Conference of Norwegian People's Aid and EUROSTEP</i>	18
<i>ITF Fishermen's Seminar for Asia and Africa</i>	18
<i>Some Reflections</i>	18
COMMUNICATIONS	21
<i>The Internet and E-Mail Workshop, Lima, Peru</i>	23
<i>Some Reflections</i>	23
CO-ORDINATION	24
CONCLUSION	25
FINANCIAL REPORT 1994-97	27
ICSF MEMBERS AND ANIMATION TEAM	48
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	49

BACKGROUND

Fishworkers, primarily fishermen from the artisanal and small-scale sector from over 30 countries around the world, along with their supporters, met for the first time in Rome in July 1984. The resulting International Conference of Fishworkers and their Supporters—since then, referred to as the Rome Conference—asserted the right of fishworkers to participate in decision-making processes that have a bearing on their life and livelihoods. It also stressed the need to create a forum to:

- monitor issues that have relevance to the life and livelihood of fishworkers;
- disseminate information, especially among fisherfolk; and
- prepare guidelines for programmes that would underscore just, participatory and sustainable fisheries development and management.

It was in pursuit of these objectives that the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) was formed in Trivandrum, India on 25 November 1986. ICSF is a global, multi-faceted network that includes anthropologists, biologists, boat-builders, community organizers, economists and social scientists from 16 countries. The common factor which links the members is their close association with fishworker organizations in their respective areas of work.

The original decision was to sustain the organization for a triennium, and the founding members committed themselves to making contributions to the programme agenda of ICSF. The term 'collective' was expressly chosen to emphasize transparency, flexibility and informality of the members and also to indicate a non-hierarchical style of functioning. Those who joined together to defend the right to life and livelihood of fishworkers worldwide, did it in their individual capacities, sharing their time and experience. After a review exercise during the 1990 Bangkok Conference of ICSF, titled *Global Fisheries Trends and the Future of Fishworkers*, it was decided to continue the functioning of the organization. The programmes were further streamlined.

ICSF was granted Consultative Status (Roster) by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in

November 1996, Liaison Status by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in November 1995 and admitted to the Special List of Non-Governmental International Organizations of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in September 1993.

PROGRAMME PRIORITIES 1993-1997

The major emphasis of ICSF programmes has been to defend the rights of artisanal and small-scale fishworkers to a better life and livelihood from fisheries resources. The priorities of ICSF during the period 1993-1997 were to:

- lobby international processes to defend the right to life and livelihood of artisanal fishworkers;
- disseminate information on developments in fisheries of interest and concern to artisanal fishing communities;
- campaign against destructive and non-selective fishing practices, such as bottom-trawling for shrimp in tropical waters as well as destructive coastal shrimp aquaculture;
- promote integrated coastal area management with emphasis on how fisheries institutions can defend the interests of fishing communities in the coastal zone;
- make visible the role of women in fishing communities and promote a gender perspective in fisheries management;
- work for better communication between fishworker organizations, and between fishworker and environmental organizations; and
- promote better understanding of work conditions of fishworkers, of trade-related developments and of new management regimes in coastal marine fisheries.

During the quadrennium, the focus of ICSF in Asia was to document the destructive impact of shrimp trawling; to work towards greater fishing gear selectivity; to document the impact of shrimp aquaculture on artisanal fishing communities; and to look at how fisheries sector institutions can defend the interests of fishworkers in programmes for coastal area management. In Africa, the emphasis continued to be on fisheries agreements of the European Union (EU) with African countries. In Latin America, the focus was on strengthening the communication and networking

skills of fishworker organizations.

At the international level, the Women in Fisheries programme continues to be important in Africa and Asia, and it was introduced in Latin America (Brazil) for the first time. Campaigning to include the interests of artisanal fishing communities in the FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries was the most significant among all of ICSF's campaign work. This was seen as a continuation of the work that was started at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The campaign against inequitable fisheries agreements of the European Union that ICSF started in 1990 still continues, but, is now channelled through ICSF's participation in the Coalition for Fair Fisheries Agreements (CFFA).

The activities of ICSF fall broadly under four heads:

- Monitoring and Research;
- Exchange and Training;
- Campaigns and Action; and
- Communication.

MONITORING AND RESEARCH

The programmes under this head attempt to document and analyze ongoing developments of concern in fisheries, especially to artisanal and small-scale fishing communities of the South. Under this programme, ICSF monitors, for example, the impact of aquaculture, of international fisheries agreements, of the use of non-selective fishing gear and techniques, and of coastal zone degradation. ICSF further undertakes research on related topics. The conditions of work of fishworkers, especially of migrant fishworkers from developing countries on distant-water fishing vessels, are also documented. Under the Women in Fisheries programme, the focus is on documenting the role of women in the fisheries and in gaining a better understanding of gender relations in fisheries in several Asian, African and Latin American countries.

¹ Impact of Aquaculture on Artisanal Fishing Communities

A study focusing on the impact of coastal aquaculture from the perspective of artisanal and small-scale fishworkers was initiated in Latin America in 1992. Seven papers on various aspects of aquaculture in Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico and Chile were prepared. A study on India was also undertaken focusing on shrimp aquaculture in the State of Tamil Nadu.

Since 1995, the emphasis of the programme has been on industrial shrimp aquaculture because of the increasing number of complaints from artisanal fishworkers about the negative impacts of shrimp aquaculture operations in countries like India, Bangladesh and Ecuador. ICSF contributed to the language and phraseology of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries on aquaculture. It participated in the Shrimp Tribunal held in conjunction with the meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development in New York in April 1996. It also participated in the Consultation on Sustainable Shrimp Aquaculture organized by FAO in Bangkok in December 1997. From the perspective of fishworkers, ICSF has identified five main problems in shrimp aquaculture and has prepared a 10-point agenda for permissible shrimp farming operations in developing countries.

2

Women in Fisheries

An important focus area for ICSF has been the quest for alternative development strategies within fisheries, with the active participation of the women of fishing communities. Nalini Nayak is the Coordinator of the Women in Fisheries (WIF) programme. The WIF programme was initiated with the objective of highlighting the crucial roles of women in the fishery sector, to help protect their spaces within it, and to increase their participation in fishworker organizations and in other decision-making processes affecting their lives. A fundamental, underlying belief is that women of fishing communities have the potential of creatively contributing to the formulation of alternative development strategies in the fisheries sector, strategies which stress the need to 'nurture' natural resources in a manner akin to the nurturing roles women of fishing communities have been playing for generations within the family and community.

ICSF's WIF programme has evolved significantly since its inception. The exploratory phase, during which Cornelie Quist and Nalini Nayak visited fishing centres and fishworker organizations in several countries of the South and North, was followed by a workshop on gender relations in fisheries, held at the time of the Cebu Conference in 1994. This helped in working towards a common conceptual framework

to analyze gender issues in fisheries. While adopting some of the elements of this framework, the WIF programme has, however, evolved differently in the countries where it became operational in the first phase, i.e., Philippines, India, Senegal and Thailand, in response to the differing contexts and base realities within those countries. Funds were a constraint for countries of the North, i.e., Canada, France and Spain. Despite this, work at the informal level has continued, and links with Northern countries have been maintained. Countries that have now been included in the second phase of the programme are Ghana and Brazil.

To mark the end of the first phase, a workshop on *Gender Perspectives in Fisheries* was held in Senegal in June 1996, with the participation of representatives from countries that have been associated with the programme, i.e., India, Philippines, Thailand, Senegal, and, more recently, Ghana and Brazil, and from countries that have maintained links with the programme, i.e., Fiji, Canada, France, Spain and Norway. The workshop provided a forum for participants to share their experiences and concerns and to further develop a conceptual framework to analyze gender issues in fisheries. While the participants committed themselves to continuing their work with women in fisheries within their respective countries, they were unanimous in their view that ICSF should build further on, and continue to support, the work initiated under the WIF programme.

To share the understanding from the implementation of the WIF programme and to highlight the roles of women in the sector, a series of dossiers on the Women in Fisheries Programme has been published by ICSF. The series includes a report of the first phase of the programme, a report of the discussions at the Senegal workshop, and reports of the WIF country programmes of Senegal and India. A dossier reporting on a public hearing on the condition of migrant women workers in fish processing plants in India has also been published.

Economic, Social and Ecological Implications of Gear Selectivity

The destructive impact of bottom-trawling has been of great concern to ICSF ever since the organization was formed. A monograph focusing on coastal conflicts in Asian waters arising as a result of bottom-trawling for shrimp was published in 1990. The Cebu Conference of ICSF discussed in detail the launching of a campaign against bottom-trawling in tropical waters. Based on the discussions at this Conference, increasing general awareness on bottom-trawling was identified as an important priority of ICSF. A Working Group on Gear Selectivity, under the leadership of John Kurien, is monitoring activities and developing guidelines for research.

The programme on the economic, social and ecological implications of gear selectivity is a take-off from the early concerns of ICSF about the impact of bottom-trawling for shrimp on artisanal non-trawl gear groups. If the original emphasis was on the social impacts of trawling and the effectiveness of legislation to resolve inter-gear conflicts, the current emphasis is on viewing the issue from an ecological and economic perspective too. The programme is also interested in identifying alternatives to trawls.

A report on *Ecological Impact of Shrimp Trawling in Tropical Waters* has been produced. This provides an overview of shrimp fisheries, the distribution of shrimp resources in the tropical belt, and of harvesting methods. It focuses on problems of by-catch and the impact of trawling on fish habitats, and suggests appropriate harvesting methods.

The importance of documenting potential gear that could substitute for shrimp trawls in tropical waters is being looked into. A case study of Indonesia is planned for 1998, as this is the only country in the world where shrimp trawling is banned and where several alternatives to trawls have been developed by artisanal fishing communities.

Yet to be studied are economic aspects, which will include investigating the backward and forward linkages of trawl fishing and its alternatives. These aspects will be examined in 1998. The next step would be to undertake a campaign for selective fishing gear and techniques from a broader perspective, a campaign mainly for substituting trawls in tropical waters in the Asian region with environmen-

tally safe and socially responsible fishing gear and techniques.

In the meantime, on aspects of gear selectivity, ICSF has been lobbying, with varying degrees of success, processes like the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks and the FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Information gathered so far on gear selectivity has also been disseminated through several ICSF meetings in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

4

**Coastal Zone Activities,
Displacement of Fishing
Communities and New
Management Regimes in
Coastal Fisheries**

Coastal degradation and its impact on the fishery sector has long been an important concern for ICSF. Discussions at the first-ever International Conference of Fishworkers and their Supporters in Rome, in 1984, had also addressed this issue. In 1994, at the Cebu Conference, the issue was explored in greater detail.

All over the world, the fragile coastal ecosystem is being threatened by, among other things, pollution from inland areas, destruction of coastal habitats such as mangroves, coral reefs and seagrass beds, overfishing and destructive fishing practices. Given that almost two-thirds of marine fish production comes from stocks which pass the first and most vulnerable stages of their life cycles in coastal areas, this is an issue of major concern for the livelihood of millions of artisanal fishworkers, most of whom derive their livelihood from fish stocks in coastal waters. In addition, the spaces of fishing communities, on land and on sea, are shrinking, as a consequence of the rapid commercialization and privatization of coastal areas with the expansion of activities related to tourism, industry and aquaculture.

At the same time, however, fishery sector institutions and fishery line agencies in most countries tend to be marginalized, and have little say in influencing developments in the coastal zone or activities in inland and offshore areas which impact significantly on the coastal zone. It remains a challenge for fishworkers to influence policy, since, except in a few countries, fishworker organizations are not as well organized and are unable to forcefully represent the interests of artisanal fishworkers in the coastal zone.

In September-October 1996, ICSF organized a *Workshop and Symposium on Fisheries and Coastal Area Management in South Asia* in Chennai (Madras), India, to discuss some of these issues. The meeting, with the participation of fishworker organizations, activists, NGOs, and governmental and multilateral agencies, emphasized the importance of the coastal ecosystem, and examined issues of coastal degradation of concern to the fishery sector, as well as governmental initiatives that have been taken towards the better management of coastal areas by countries in the South Asian region. It considered strategies that need to be pursued by fishworkers and their organizations to protect coastal and marine resources, and to defend their interests in the coastal zone. A seminar on Responsible Fisheries, held in Fortaleza, Brazil, also discussed issues of coastal degradation and management.

In addition, ICSF has also been lobbying FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries with regard to fisheries and coastal area management, especially to protect the access of fishing communities to the coastal commons.

The proceedings of the *Workshop and Symposium on Fisheries and Coastal Area Management in South Asia* have already been published. Also published is a study on *Coastal Area Management in South Asia: A comparative Perspective*, which reviews threats to the coastal areas of countries in the South Asian region from the perspective of the fishery sector, as well as government initiatives in coastal area management.

**MONITORING AND
RESEARCH PROGRAMME:
Some Reflections**

ICSF has been looking at aquaculture development and its impact on fishworkers since 1992. While the first round of enquiry looked at aquaculture development in general, of late, the focus has been on shrimp aquaculture and its impact on artisanal fishing communities in particular. Although ICSF has been able to use some of these findings to lobby effectively for responsible aquaculture practices, the impact could have been more significant had these studies been undertaken in a more systematic fashion right from 1992.

The Women in Fisheries programme, in countries where it has been implemented, has, to a varying

degree, been successful in making more visible the roles of women in fisheries, in increasing their participation in fishworker organizations, and in helping such organizations be more responsive to the needs and problems of women in fishing communities. While it is true that fishworker organizations continue to remain male-dominated and it is only with considerable struggle that women find representation within them, (rarely, if ever, occupying leadership roles), it is also true that, as a consequence of the WIF programme, a beginning has been made, and that the spaces for women to articulate their concerns and to influence developments within the sector, have been expanded. A core group of women leaders is crystalizing within fishworker organizations, and they are expected to carry forward the work initiated. This is true of India, Senegal and, to some extent, the Philippines. In Thailand, unfortunately, the programme could not be sustained.

However, efforts to enable fishworker organizations to adopt a feminist perspective on resource management, a perspective which recognizes the need to actively explore alternative and sustainable development strategies in fisheries and to adopt a 'nurture approach' to managing fishery resources, continues. This implies that the WIF programme is perceived so far by fishworker organizations more as a programme to benefit women fishworkers, rather than as one which, moving beyond that, informs the perspective of fishworker organizations—a perspective that works towards sustaining fishery resources, as well as the men, women and children of artisanal fishing communities that remain crucially dependent on these.

At the international policy level, the attempt to draw attention to the importance of greater gear selectivity has been a qualified success—qualified, because the social impact of non-selective fishing gear and practices are yet to be fully recognized in important international documents on fisheries. Further lobbying is necessary in future to address this important issue.

The programme on coastal zone activities and coastal fisheries, while documenting the specificities of coastal zone degradation from a fisheries perspective, also looked at the existing legal regimes that could

address some of these problems, especially in the Asian region, and identified their drawbacks. The programme was able to highlight the complexity of the issues involved and the need for greater inter-sectoral initiatives. More work, however, needs to be done to develop effective mechanisms to prevent fishworkers from being marginalized as a result of coastal degradation. Equally important is to ensure that initiatives to develop such mechanisms should entail the participation of fishworkers.

EXCHANGE AND TRAINING

The main aim of the Exchange and Training programme is to facilitate a South-South dialogue with a view to enhance capacities for sustainable and socially responsible fisheries management and development, and to selectively reduce dependence on the North in matters related to technology and organization.

For logistic and technical reasons, several activities that were conceived under this head could not be undertaken, with the exception of an exchange programme between Senegal and India under the Women in Fisheries programme. An exchange programme for the demersal shark fishermen of India to learn pelagic shark fishing techniques from Sri Lankan fishers could not be undertaken. This was because the Sri Lankans felt it was an inopportune time to undertake the exchange, given the ethnic tension between the Tamils and the Sinhalese. Another proposal from Peruvian fishermen to learn deep-water baccalao fishing techniques from Chile had to be given up because of differences within the artisanal fishermen's organization of Peru. Another exchange programme planned between Togo, Ghana and Senegal on fish marketing and processing in the artisanal sector also could not be undertaken due to several technical problems.

The Latin American Mission

To strengthen the Latin American component of ICSF programmes, Brian O'Riordan and the Executive Secretary visited Mexico, Peru, Chile, Argentina and Brazil to improve relations with fishworker organizations and to get a better understanding of the issues that concern them. The visit was useful in strengthening ICSF's contacts with Latin American fishworker groups and in identifying some new contacts in the

fisheries field, especially in countries like Brazil, Peru and Argentina. As a result of this visit, the Women in Fisheries programme of ICSF was extended to Brazil. Subsequent to this visit, the Animation Team Meeting in 1995 was held in Recife, Brazil. Three programmes were organized with the support of ICSF in Latin America: a women's meeting in Brazil, a workshop on communication and networking in Peru, and a seminar on responsible fisheries with special emphasis on coastal area management in Brazil.

EXCHANGE AND TRAINING PROGRAMME: Some Reflections

The Exchange and Training programmes appear to be the weakest. However, several of the ICSF programmes have, in fact, an exchange and training component which do not get reflected under this head. For example, the Women in Fisheries programme, communication and networking programme in Latin America, the Cebu Conference, and the Coastal Management Workshop in India, all have an Exchange and Training component. In this context, it may be useful to examine and, if necessary, rework the current classification of ICSF programmes.

CAMPAIGNS AND ACTION

Campaigns and action programmes are essentially meant to draw attention to processes that limit the access of fishworker to resources, and otherwise adversely affect their working conditions and livelihood. Attempts are made to defend their right to life and livelihood and their access to fisheries resources.

1 The Cebu Conference: Tenth Anniversary of the 1994 Rome Conference

As mentioned at the outset, ICSF was essentially formed to support the concerns of artisanal and small-scale fishworkers and, since its formation, it has been organizing periodic meetings of fishworkers and their supporters to develop its agenda and plan of action. The conference held in Cebu, the Philippines, from 2 to 7 June 1994 (Cebu Conference), was one such meeting. It was more significant than all the previous ICSF meetings in the sense that it was essentially a post-Rome Conference stocktaking exercise to look at the status of artisanal fishworker organizations worldwide and, in that light, to examine new issues of concern. About 100 participants from 31 countries, spread across Asia, Africa, the Pacific, Europe and the Americas, participated in the Confer-

ence, titled *Struggle of Fishworkers: New Concerns for Support*. The participants included representatives of important fishworker organizations from different countries, social and physical scientists, community organizers and community workers. Also, for the first time, FAO formally participated in this conference.

By providing a forum where people directly concerned with these problems could interact and exchange ideas and experiences, ICSF hoped to promote fresh solutions and support mechanisms for fishworkers. The Conference addressed five different, but related, topics, namely, coastal environment and fishworkers; fisheries and fishworker organizations; technology and energy use in fisheries; transnational linkages in fisheries; and work and social security conditions in fisheries.

The Conference came up with a set of recommendations to ICSF on each of the above topics and enabled ICSF to design its triennial programme, complying with the needs and priorities of fishworker organizations. The proceedings of the Conference, under the title *The Cebu Conference: Proceedings*, have been published. Three new priorities were taken up after the Cebu Conference, namely, the campaign against destructive and non-selective fishing gear and practices; importance of fisheries management issues, including integrated coastal area management; and education, training and communication.

2

Support to Fishworkers on Industrial Fishing Vessels

A task force on industrial fishing vessels was formed in 1993, for a period of two years, with members from the Indo-Pacific region, to look into the legal aspects of recruitment, remuneration, social security and conditions of work in distant-water fisheries. The task force was based in Port Louis, Mauritius, under the co-ordination of Jean Vacher. The report of the task force, which focuses mainly on countries in the Indian Ocean region, namely, Madagascar, Seychelles, Reunion and Mauritius, has been produced.

The task force report draws attention to the transboundary nature of problems of fishworkers in the distant-water fisheries sector, and deplores the absence of proper laws and regulations in the sector

to protect the interests of workers. While documenting the role of several NGOs working with maritime communities and distant-water fishworkers, the report stresses the importance of regional co-operation in solving the occupational problems of distant-water fishworkers. The task force sees this as the only way to tackle the emergence of flags of convenience that has led to fishing companies re-registering their vessels in third countries with lax regulatory regimes. This is done in order to circumvent international conventions on safety of life at sea and to flout minimum standards of employment, health and remuneration. The task force advocates a strategy where governments and NGOs work together to prevent the marginalization of fishworkers in the distant-water fisheries sector.

The report also advocates the ratification of the Torremolinos Convention under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to improve the safety of fishing vessels. This Convention was opened for signature in March 1977, but remains unenforced due to an insufficient number of ratifications.

3

United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks

Campaigning at the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks was aimed at highlighting the inseparability of problems of fisheries within the EEZ from those in the high seas. It was also aimed at continuing as well as sharing the lessons of the campaign for equitable European Union (EU) fisheries agreements at a broader level. ICSF also facilitated the participation of representatives of national artisanal fishworker organizations of India and Senegal at the Conference.

As a result of overfishing of stocks, fleet migration to underexploited Southern waters is taking place not only from EU and several other Northern countries, but also from countries like Korea, Taiwan and China. Several tuna stocks in the Indian Ocean, for example, are being brought under fisheries access agreements between coastal States and distant-water fishing States since the 1980s. This is becoming a new area of concern for artisanal fishworkers of the South because of their fears that such vessels would fish in their traditional waters and would compete for space and resources. They also fear destruction of their craft

and gear by encroaching vessels, given the history of such happenings in countries like Senegal.

The issue of working conditions on board distant-water fishing vessels is also a matter of concern since these vessels sometimes hire cheap labour from third countries and employ them under exploitative conditions. These concerns underscore the need for a holistic perspective on fisheries management within and beyond the EEZ as well as the need to combine human rights issues with conservation requirements.

The final document of the Conference includes provisions for the protection of subsistence, artisanal and small-scale fishers by both coastal States and distant-water fishing States. Under requirements of developing States, the Agreement also advocates the need to avoid adverse impacts on subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fishworkers, while establishing conservation and management measures for straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks.

4

**FAO's Code of Conduct
for Responsible Fisheries**

At the Cebu Conference, ICSF accepted the invitation to associate with the process for the formulation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. ICSF saw the Code process essentially as a vehicle for responsible governance of fisheries resources because of its overarching coverage of all aspects of fisheries and aquaculture. Although voluntary in nature, there was a strong likelihood that the Code would greatly influence fisheries management and policy-making regimes in future at the national, regional and international levels. It was seen as a forum to juxtapose the concerns of coastal fishing communities, especially artisanal fishworkers, with those of the States and other agencies. The main rationale behind ICSF's participation in the process was to ensure that adequate attention was given to the concerns of artisanal fishworkers whose principal livelihood depends on fisheries resources. Towards this end, ICSF also took representatives of artisanal fishworker organizations from Chile, India, the Philippines and Senegal on its delegation and provided them an opportunity to address the sessions. Within the framework of sustainable fisheries development and management, it was argued that artisanal fisheries and fishworkers should be given preferential treatment.

Several of the proposals of ICSF were adopted in the Code in some form or the other. The most significant contribution of ICSF is para 6.18 under the Article on General Principles:

Recognizing the important contributions of artisanal and small-scale fisheries to employment, income and food security, States should appropriately protect the rights of fishers and fishworkers, particularly those engaged in subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fisheries, to a secure and just livelihood, as well as preferential access, where appropriate, to traditional fishing grounds and resources in the waters under their national jurisdiction. (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, Rome, FAO, 1995)

The 'preferential access' to traditional fishing grounds and resources mentioned in the Code is a significant milestone for artisanal and small-scale fishing communities, considering that a similar proposal to reserve inshore fishing grounds for the use of small-scale fisheries was rejected by the UNCED.

ICSF intends to associate with the process of implementing the Code, and has already held meetings for fishworker organizations in Senegal (Africa), India (Asia), and Brazil and Peru (Latin America) for the dissemination of the Code.

5

Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)

ICSF participated in the Commission on Sustainable Development's review of the Ocean's Chapter (Chapter 17) in April-May 1996 and participated at the Shrimp Tribunal that was held in conjunction with it. On behalf of 25 NGOs, ICSF presented the NGO Statement on Unsustainable Aquaculture to the CSD on 1 May 1996.

6

Participation in FAO Meetings

Ever since ICSF was conferred Liaison Status with FAO in November 1995, it has been participating in several FAO meetings. In addition to the sessions on the Code of Conduct, it attended two meetings of the Committee on Fisheries, two meetings of the Committee on Food Security, a Consultation on sustainable shrimp aquaculture, a Consultation on techno-economic viability of sustainable fishing operations, and a Workshop on population characteristics and change

Participating in the ILO Maritime Convention

in coastal fishing communities. Written interventions, or papers, were submitted to all these processes. Several of ICSF's interventions are reflected in the final outcome of these consultations.

ICSF was included in the ILO's Special List of Non-Governmental International Organizations in September 1993, and participated in the International Labour Conference at its 84th (Maritime) Session in Geneva in October 1996. ICSF got an opportunity to attend the Workers' Group Meeting and to brief the affiliates of ITF about the activities of the ICSF task force on distant-water fishing vessels.

Support to the Coalition for Fair Fisheries Agreements (CFFA)

ICSF is an active member of CFFA, a coalition which was founded in 1992 by a group of European NGOs and ICSF. The Secretariat of CFFA is based in the ICSF office in Brussels. The main theme of CFFA's work currently is coherence between EU-ACP (European Union-African, Caribbean and Pacific countries) Fisheries Agreements and the Policy Objectives of EU Co-operation and Development. The theme of coherence was chosen because it was a major issue at the European Intergovernmental Conference (IGC). CFFA works in partnership with organizations like the Collectif National des Pêcheurs Artisans du Sénégal (CNPS), a trade union of artisanal fishworkers of Senegal, and Centre de Recherches pour le Développement des Technologies Intermédiaires de Pêche (CREDETIP), an NGO working on issues of concern to the artisanal fishworkers of Senegal. This partnership has led to both a coherence in approach and a consistency in the messages produced in the North and the South. This partnership has, in no uncertain terms, contributed to the fisheries debate in Senegal, and continues to influence it. Currently, CFFA is also looking into the EU fisheries agreements with Madagascar.

At another level, CFFA has been able to demonstrate that there are common issues of concern to small-scale fishworkers in both the North and the South which arise from EU Fisheries Agreements. It is in this context that CFFA supported the participation of French fishworkers in discussions on the EU Fishery Agreement with Senegal.

CFFA has ensured closer contact with NGOs through initiating a common campaign on fisheries agreements with the European NGO network organizations, like EUROSTEP and the EU/NGO Liaison Committee. The common platform provided by these organizations has enabled CFFA to considerably widen its audience, and to increase its information outreach. Thanks to the common campaign, CFFA has been able to inform and influence at the level of the Council of Ministers. Without a doubt, this preliminary collaboration has the potential to develop into longer-term joint working arrangements.

The ongoing work of CFFA with EU institutions has achieved some notable successes: an EU Parliament report on international fisheries agreements; a study on the impacts of fisheries agreements, commissioned by the EU Parliament; a fisheries agreement seminar in Dakar organized by the EU-ACP Joint Assembly, as well as questions and resolutions on Fisheries agreements tabled for the European Parliament. All this demonstrates clearly that fisheries agreements are gaining increasing importance as the subject of debate within both EU and ACP institutions. At another level, CFFA has made some real progress in developing relationships with ACP institutions. Thus, at the request of the ACP Secretariat for longer-term collaboration, a first step has been taken by organizing a presentation to ACP delegates on Coherence and Fisheries Agreements. This collaboration will be further developed in future. By providing a regular flow of information, CFFA has been able to ensure that the debates conducted within EU institutions incorporated the wider development issues of concern to the EU and ACP artisanal fisheries sectors. For effective communication with its constituents and also with other institutions, CFFA brings out a regular publication called the *CFFA Newsletter*.

9

30th Annual Conference of the Law of the Sea Institute

ICSF was invited to the 30th Annual Conference of the Law of the Sea Institute to be on the Panel on *Non-Governmental Organizations and Fisheries: Perceptions and Plans*, and to talk about the activities of ICSF and its future plans. A paper, titled *Coastal Communities and Fishworkers: Factors in Fisheries Laws and Management*, was presented to the Conference and will be published as part of the Conference proceedings.

Vega Conference of Norwegian People's Aid and EUROSTEP

The Norwegian People's Aid and EUROSTEP organized a conference on *Local, Regional and Global Management and Distribution of Marine Resources* at which ICSF presented a paper on *Potential Co-operation between Solidarity and Voluntary Organizations, and Organizations Representing Small-scale Fisheries*.

ITF Fishermen's Seminar for Asia and Africa

ICSF participated at these seminars which were organized basically to inform fishermen of these continents affiliated to ITF about new UN processes like the Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and International Maritime Organization (IMO) instruments. The Asian Seminar was organized in Manila, the Philippines, and the African Seminar, in Cape Town, South Africa.

After attending the ITF Seminar in Cape Town, the Executive Secretary travelled extensively in South Africa, meeting with fishworker organizations at the local, provincial and national levels. A report on the visit was carried in *Samudra Report* No. 18, describing the structure of South African fisheries and the problems plaguing the redistribution of marine resources among the blacks, the coloureds and the whites in the post-apartheid era.

CAMPAIGNS AND ACTION PROGRAMES: Some Reflections

The Cebu Conference provided an important opportunity for fishworkers from all over the world to discuss several issues of concern within a structured framework. The Conference contributed to building up greater solidarity among fishworker organizations and led to the realization that many of the problems faced by artisanal fishworkers, although varying in magnitude, are, in fact, universal in character. The Conference was also significant in the sense that FAO had sent its representative to formally seek the collaboration of artisanal fishworker organizations in the development of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. This was a meaningful development, considering the fact that the Rome Conference in 1984 was organized mainly in reaction to the exclusion of artisanal and small-scale fishworkers from the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. The most significant drawback at Cebu was that interpretation facilities were dependent

solely on volunteers from the Conference. Also, although ICSF drew its subsequent programme priorities based on the recommendations of the Conference, the number of issues it could take up was limited.

The task force on distant-water fishing vessels has been able to draw attention to the conditions of work and remuneration that prevails in the Indian Ocean region. The location of the task force in Mauritius also helped to resolve several problems of distant-water fishworkers who belong to countries in that region, namely, Madagascar, Comorro Islands and Mauritius. The task force network has been useful in ensuring better port State control on vessels breaking international regulations on safety of vessels at sea. The task force, however, did not look into the problems of recruitment of workers from the Philippines into the Taiwanese tuna fisheries, an important area of concern for several Filipino fishworker organizations. Given the duration of the task force, it could have come up with a more comprehensive report on fishermen on distant-water fishing vessels.

From a fishworker perspective, the UN Straddling Stocks Agreement has three drawbacks. First, it has not sufficiently emphasized the importance of promoting and developing the use of selective, environmentally safe and cost-effective fishing gear and techniques, an issue of concern to artisanal fishworker organizations. Second, it has failed to consider the participation of fishworkers in regional and subregional bodies or arrangements for the management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks. Third, it lost an opportunity to gain greater co-operation from fishworkers to comply with conservation and management measures, by refusing to address the issue of working conditions on board distant-water fishing vessels.

In spite of the above limitations, the Agreement is a significant achievement towards better conservation and management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks. For instance, the precautionary approach as developed by the Agreement is an important milestone and could be an effective tool for addressing conservation and allocation issues in fisheries management in future.

While the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries seems to be well balanced, it has, however, three main drawbacks. First, instead of addressing all stakeholders, the Code addresses mainly the State. Had it been otherwise, it would have given a wider significance to the Code. Second, the section on fisheries management, which is the most important article of the Code, is very much biological in its orientation and does not take into consideration the distributional aspects of fisheries management. Conflict resolution, which is part of the allocation regime, is also not dealt with under management. Third, the Article on Post-harvest Practices and Trade (Article 11) is problematic since it seeks harmony with the World Trade Organization Agreement. The market incentive inherent in liberalized trade regimes and the incompatibility between global/local demand-supply conditions for commercially valuable species, could easily accelerate overfishing of fisheries resources.

In spite of all its limitations, the Code is, perhaps, the most comprehensive document that attempts to address vital issues in fisheries conservation and management. Judiciously applied, it could substantially contribute to resolving the present crises in world fisheries.

The process of the CSD review of the Ocean's chapter (Chapter 17) of Agenda 21 left a lot to be desired. The CSD gave the impression that it is running out of steam. There was poor representation of countries, especially developing countries, at this session. The Shrimp Tribunal, however, was useful in discussing the issue of shrimp aquaculture from different perspectives and it provided an opportunity for dialogue between the industry and NGOs. The planning session that followed the Tribunal was also a useful opportunity for an open dialogue between North- and South-based NGOs.

ICSF's participation in different FAO meetings also gave mixed results. While the participation in the sessions on the Code of Conduct and the meetings of the Committee on Fisheries were useful in influencing the process as well as in disseminating information about ICSF programmes, the participation in the meetings of the Committee on Food Security did not yield any tangible results. ICSF was the only NGO

from the fisheries/oceans sector, and the documents of the Committee on Food Security pays scant attention to fisheries issues.

Although ICSF is on the Special List of International NGOs of ILO, and is formally invited to ILO meetings, the room for directly influencing ILO is limited for NGOs—except for those formally representing the employers or employees—because of the tripartite structure of ILO. This is unlike in the case of other UN bodies. Moreover, ILO is still not looking into the welfare aspects of fishworkers in the artisanal and small-scale sector.

Participating in the 30th Annual Conference of the Law of the Sea Institute, considered to be the premier centre for research on law of the sea matters, was useful in establishing contacts with eminent lawyers dealing with Law of the Sea matters. It also gave an opportunity to brief the legal fraternity about the activities of ICSF, especially its efforts to influence international decision-making processes.

Attending the Vega Conference of Norwegian People's Aid and EUROSTEP was also a useful opportunity to discuss the activities of ICSF as well as to establish some new contacts. ICSF made its first formal contact with South African groups in fisheries at this conference.

The ITF meetings in Manila, the Philippines, and in Cape Town, South Africa, were extremely useful in providing an opportunity to meet with new fishworker organizations, especially from the industrial sector. The meeting in Manila was useful in learning about the conditions of work of Burmese fishworkers on board the fishing vessels of Thailand. The contacts made at the African Seminar also provided opportunities to meet with fishworker groups from the East Coast of Africa.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communication programme of ICSF is multifaceted. It aims essentially to disseminate information on ICSF activities and to bring important developments in the world of fisheries to the attention of fishworker organizations, other NGOs and policymakers. It also seeks to facilitate dialogue among the members of ICSF.

In order to disseminate information about its activities and to facilitate dialogue between different interested parties in fisheries, ICSF brings out a series of publications. These are published under the generic title, *Samudra*, which means 'ocean' in several Asian languages.

The regular publications are: the *Samudra Report*, the *Samudra Newsletter*, *Samudra Monographs*, *Dossiers* and *Proceedings*. The *Samudra Report*, which is distributed to a select list of organizations and people on a worldwide mailing list, comes out in English, French and Spanish, thrice a year. Nineteen issues have been published so far in English. The *Samudra Report* is presently available on the Internet at the URL <http://www.gmt2000.co.uk/ICSF> and will soon shift to ICSF's own domain at <http://www.icsf.org>.

The *Samudra Newsletter*, renamed *ICSF News* from November 1996, is published in English, and is intended for circulation only among the members of ICSF. Seven issues have come out during the period 1994 to 1997.

In the Monograph series, only one has been published, namely, *Le crédit à la pêche artisanale en Afrique de l'Ouest*, on credit and artisanal fisheries in West Africa. In the Dossier series, six titles have been published. The first dossier is on insurance and credit in the artisanal fisheries of Senegal and is titled *Commercialisation, crédit et assurance dans la pêche artisanale maritime: le cas du Sénégal*.

There are five dossiers on Women in Fisheries. These are: (1) *Public Hearing on the Struggles of Women Workers in the Fish Processing Industry in India*; (2) *Women First: Report of the Women in Fisheries Programme of the ICSF in India, Volume I*; (3) *Women for Sustainable Fisheries: Report of the First Phase of the Women in Fisheries Programme of ICSF*; (4) *Globalization, Gender and Fisheries: Report of the Senegal Workshop on Gender Perspectives in Fisheries*; and (5) *Les femmes et la pêche au Sénégal*.

In the series on *Proceedings*, three titles have been published. These are: (1) *The Cebu Conference: Proceedings*; (2) *South Asia Workshop and Symposium on Fisheries and Coastal Area Management: Proceedings*; and (3)

ICSF also produced an issue of the *Development Education Exchange Papers* (DEEP) on responsible fisheries (October 1995) for FAO, which was published in English, French and Spanish. The issue was well received and went into a reprint.

The Internet and E-Mail Workshop, Lima, Peru

ICSF organized a Workshop on Electronic Communication and the Internet, in Lima, Peru, from 27 to 29 May 1997. The participants came from fishworker organizations in Peru, Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, and NGOs working with fishworker organizations in Brazil and Peru. The Workshop was co-ordinated by James Smith and the chief resource person was Satish Babu from the South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies (SIFFS), India.

The main objective of the Workshop was to introduce fishworker organizations and support NGOs in Latin America to electronic means of communication for better information access and worldwide exchanges. The Workshop also sought to train them to effectively use the electronic medium in undertaking regional campaigns on issues of common concern to Latin American fishworker organizations. The Workshop identified three main areas for greater networking at the regional level, in Latin America: degradation of the coastal environment, including the destructive impact of sea lions on artisanal fishing; incursion of foreign fishing fleets into the EEZs; and aspects of safety at sea.

At the end of the Workshop, a committee comprising Sammy Nafez from Centro Josue de Castro, Brazil, Manuel Milla from FIUPAP, Peru, Pedro Avendano from CONAPACH, Chile, Guillermo Risco from FETRINECH, and Geraldo Salazar from FENACOPEC, Ecuador, was formed to discuss follow-up programmes under the co-ordination of James Smith.

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMME: Some Reflections

Samudra Report has been referred to as "probably the only international voice for small-scale fishing communities worldwide" by *The Ecologist* in its March/April, May/June 1995 issue. *Samudra* has been carrying debates on issues like ecolabelling, the fisheries

policy of South Africa, intensive aquaculture for shrimp, coastal area management, and the relationship between fishworker organizations and environmental organizations. It has carried several articles on gender, and is, arguably, the only report that gives so much importance to gender issues in fisheries. It has also been informing fishworker organizations about various international processes in fisheries, like the United Nations Agreement on Straddling Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, the FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the ILO resolutions on the fisheries sector, the Lomé Agreement in fisheries and its impacts on the artisanal fisheries sector, and processes of the Commission on Sustainable Development relevant to fisheries. There is, however, a delay in bringing out the *Samudra Report* in French and Spanish, mainly due to the difficulty in finding suitable translators on a long-term basis.

The Internet and E-Mail Workshop was a good example of several organizations from Asia, Latin America and Europe working together. It was an interesting example of a resource person from a South-based (Asian) fishworker organization leading a workshop on a specialized topic like Internet communication for fishworker organizations from Latin America, with the logistical support of European NGOs.

Although the Workshop identified areas of networking at the regional level, the unequal access to technology and the unequal levels of skill endowment of fishworker organizations could present a practical problem for some time, before effective networking develops among these organizations. The Workshop, however, gave an idea about how electronic networking could be developed and used for effective exchange of information and lobbying for issues of concern to fishworker organizations.

CO-ORDINATION

The co-ordination of ICSF's programmes is done by the General Body, the Animation Team (AT), which is the governing council, and the Secretariat. As on 17 February 1998, there are 19 regular and six associate members from 16 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe and Canada.

The AT's term of office is three years and it has a co-ordinator also elected for a period of three years. The present Co-ordinator of the Animation Team is V.Vivekanandan.

The Programme Co-ordination Centre at Chennai (Madras) is the Secretariat and has two new persons working with the Executive Secretary, Sebastian Mathew. Chandrika Sharma joined as a Programme Associate in 1996 and Pamela Gordon as Office Secretary in 1997. Chandrika Sharma is currently looking after the Women in Fisheries and the Coastal Area Management programmes of ICSF.

The Brussels Office, the principal office of ICSF, looks after all financial transfers, and co-ordinates activities of ICSF in Europe. Pierre Gillet continues to be in charge of the Brussels Office, while Brian O'Riordan is in the process of taking over from him. Béatrice Gorez, who mainly looks after CFFA, also functions as the secretary of the Brussels Office.

CONCLUSION

The last quadrennium was perhaps the most significant in the history of fisheries management and development worldwide. The historic United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea was ratified on 16 November 1994. The United Nations Agreement on the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks was opened for signature in August 1995. FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries was adopted by the FAO Conference at its 28th session in 1995. The World Forum of Professional Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers was formed in New Delhi in November 1997. All these developments are of far-reaching significance and ICSF has been associating with, and influencing, several of these processes.

In the past decade, many things have changed for the better for artisanal fishworker communities, especially in the South. They are beginning to be consulted and their perspective on fisheries development and management is gaining recognition with national governments, bilateral and multilateral agencies. Industrial fisheries is now increasingly recognized as an unviable model for fisheries development in the

Third World. Traditional knowledge in relation to fisheries management is also better recognized.

In the realm of fisheries management, however, much remains to be done to ensure a better future for fishworker communities and a greater responsibility for fisheries and coastal resources. Viable fisheries policies and regulations towards better conservation and distribution of fisheries resources are still lacking at the national level. Also, the importance of granting use rights to coastal waters to artisanal and small-scale fishworkers is yet to be recognized in many Southern countries.

FINANCIAL REPORT 1994-97

This report provides a commentary on the finances of the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) for the last triennium and a budget format for the next. In addition it provides a brief report concerning the ongoing programme of restructuring of the financial systems of ICSF.

The main emphasis of this report is on an analysis of the financial situation and flows during the last triennium. These shall be considered in comparison to the budget approved by the last triennial meeting of the general body of ICSF.

The budget format for the next triennium has been provided in order to enable the ready completion and approval of a Triennial Budget during the forthcoming triennial meeting to be held at Trivandrum in February, 1998. This format would be replaced by the approved budget in copies of this report that are made available after this meeting.

This report also includes projections for the ongoing year in order to provide a continuous view. This year falls in between the two trienniums as a result of a proposed change in the period of the triennium with respect to the date of the meeting whereby the triennium would commence from the year *following* the year in which the meeting is held instead of *during* it. The reasons and consequences of this change are elaborated in Section C: Triennial Budget.

In response to the needs expressed for a more communicative financial reporting this report has been prepared in a manner that seeks to be not only analytical and informative but also explanatory. This is intended to cater to the needs of those readers who may not be readily familiar with the 'technical' language of accounting. This is expected to be further developed after the proposed changes in the annual accounting system have been effected.

RESTRUCTURING OF FINANCIAL SYSTEMS

Arising out of the needs expressed at the last tri-ennial meeting held at Cebu in May, 1994 a study of the financial systems of ICSF was carried out by an independent professional and his recommendations obtained. The major aspects of the ongoing restructuring programme undertaken as a

result are as follows:

- A Finances Committee of the Animation Team (AT) was formed to provide a closer relation of the AT to its finances function. This has met twice since it was constituted in August, 1995 in order to review the restructuring programme and the finances with the objective of making recommendations to the AT. Another meeting would be held shortly before the forthcoming triennial meeting. In addition, a brief meeting was held after a major fisheries conference in November, 1997.
- An International Finances Facility (IFF) of ICSF is being initiated at Brussels. This seeks to set up an independent facility for the banking and accounting of the international financial flows of ICSF by separating them from those of the Brussels Office. This would also facilitate the consolidation of the financial statements of ICSF, as mentioned below.
- The annual financial accounting and reporting systems are being revised in order to make them more meaningful and communicative. The present Report is part of that effort. The revision is expected to be reflected in the audited financial statements with effect from the next financial year 1998-99. The proposed changes in the annual accounting system have been outlined in the following section.
- A system of independent audit, to be carried out according to formal international standards is expected to be put into operation in respect of the coming financial year.
- A system of financial planning has been put into operation that aims to provide a continuity between the financial data and projections concerning the past, present and future in order to facilitate internal management. It is sought to be updated at quarterly intervals on the basis of an interim accounting. A revised system of classification of accounts is also expected to be fully operationalised shortly.
- Certain internal procedures, concerning grants and programme disbursements in particular, are being strengthened in order that they are in accord with

the growth of the organization.

- A smoother and more efficient financial management is expected to result from these and other measures, such as in relation to cash and overhead management.

FINANCIAL REVIEW 1994-97

Financial Statements

We begin this review with a consideration of the annual financial statements since these provide the basic financial data of an organization. We shall primarily discuss the basis of their preparation, particularly in the context of the proposed changes. Details of inflows from grants and outflows on programmes and coordination are then considered.

A summarized version of the audited financial statements of ICSF is presented in Tables 1 and 2. The Cash Flow statement and the details of income and expenditure are based on the data provided by these statements. They are presented in Tables 3 to 5 and Charts 1 to 2.

The accounting policies underlying the annual financial statements of ICSF derive from the 'cash basis' of accounting, which seeks to provide an accurate record of all inflows and outflows. In view of the growth of the organization and in order to provide a clearer view of the resources and surplus available to the organization, it is proposed to change to the 'accruals basis' commencing from the statements for the forthcoming year, 1998-99.

As may be seen, the financial statements portray a considerable fluctuation between annual deficits and surpluses, though this evens out over two or more years. This is the result of the basis of accounting adopted rather than a reflection on the performance of the organization. Much of the surplus depicted represents yet-to-be-spent portions of grants, usually received in advance of the carrying out of the project. The use of such portions in the following year is reflected as a deficit since expenditure is recorded in that year while the corresponding income was recorded in the previous year. Under the proposed 'accruals basis' of accounting incomes and expenditures would be recognized in the period to which

they relate rather than in the period in which they were received or disbursed.

The accruals basis would result in the clear explication, in the financial statements, of all grant utilizations and balances. The need for this was not so significant when ICSF was a smaller organization. It would, moreover, provide a clearer view of organization's own resources and their capital component. It would thus provide a more meaningful Balance Sheet. Annual surpluses (in respect of ICSF's present activities) would reflect the accretion to the organization's own resources arising from the interest income therefrom to the extent that it has not been applied for the organization's activities. They would also reflect donations that similarly contribute to such resources.

It is significant to note that in moving to an accruals basis, ICSF shall be effectively following the spirit of the regulations applicable to not-for-profit organizations (NPOs) in the United Kingdom. These regulations permit the adoption of the cash basis only for smaller 'charities'. ICSF has crossed the size threshold of £100,000 in terms of gross income relatively recently. However, these regulations are not applicable to ICSF since its base of financial operations is situated at Brussels. There are no significant regulations in Belgium that specifically address the accounting of NPOs and practices there have tended to follow regulations applicable to, and devised for, business organizations, rather than NPOs. Moreover, the Belgian situation is more widespread than the one in the UK. The elaborate charity regulations in the latter are paralleled in only two other countries, Canada and US. The regulations in all three countries, moreover, are very recent developments.

Accounting Policies

In devising its accounting policies, it is intended that ICSF shall be guided by the spirit of developments in the field of NPO accounting, such as in these three countries, and of International Accounting Standards, to the extent that they are relevant to NPOs. The emphasis is likely to be on the UK regulations. Outlined below are the most significant of the changes proposed to be made in the accounting policies and in the presentation of, and disclosure in, financial statements.

- A consolidated set of statements would be prepared for the organization as a whole. At present, the financial statements of ICSF reflect the transfers made to the Chennai Office for different purposes. They do not reflect the details of their utilization in the same period. The consolidation would be facilitated by the operationalization of the International Finances Facility (IFF) mentioned above, which would treat the financial statements of the Chennai and Brussels Offices as financial reports for moneys disbursed to them.
- Grants would be recognized as income of a period, to the extent of their utilization during that period. The balance yet to be utilized as of the year-end would be carried forward. At present, as discussed above, the amounts received during a period are treated as income of that period.
- Portions of grants utilized for capital expenditure would be treated as permanent contributions to the capital of ICSF. At present, the entire amount received is treated as income.
- Overheads and directly attributable staff costs would be allocated to programmes on appropriate bases, subject to an upper limit in percentage terms.

In addition to the above, and following from it, accounting policies would be explicated as part of the statements. There would, moreover, be presented an analysis of functional expenses, i.e., programme and co-ordination, by broad natural categories such as remuneration, travel and other expenses. A review of the 'stock' of resources, liabilities and assets depicted in the balance sheet would be carried out as part of the financial review after the proposed changes have been effected.

Contributed Services

The financial statements to be prepared on the basis of the accounting policies outlined above would not reflect a significant aspect of ICSF's flow of resources. This pertains to the contributions-in-kind received by ICSF in the form of services. Though it is possible to adopt an accounting policy that recognizes as the organization's income, a monetarised value of such

contributions (as clarified by the regulations of two of the three countries mentioned above, Canada and US), it is not proposed to do so at present. There is, however, a proposal to carry out a quantitative and/or monetary estimation of such services.

It seems likely that the calculation of such a value would result in the depiction of the total income of ICSF (and consequently, its expenditure) at a level that would be substantially more than double that of the present level. These voluntary contributions are made by the members, associates and personnel of ICSF. In addition to the fully voluntary services, there is a significant semi-voluntary element in others, in as much as the quantum of payment actually made for them is considerably lower than their market value.

Grant Inflows

It is necessary to categorize grant inflows according to the nature of restrictiveness of their purpose. This is because monies have to be managed, and activities carried out, according to the restrictions contained in the terms of the grants. ICSF's grants are seen in three categories: Specific, General and Unrestricted. The category Unrestricted Grants pertains to grants that are completely free to be used at the discretion of ICSF. The Specific Grants category, at the other extreme, refers to grants for specific programmes and/or co-ordination. The General Grants category is an intermediary category. It includes certain grants that are not specifically restricted, but have been provided under a broad plan of activities and budget which must be adhered to. During the last triennium, there was one General Grant and no Unrestricted Grants.

A complete list of grants received during the period under report is provided in Table 4: Triennial Income Received. The grant inflows during the last triennium totalled US \$ 712,000. Of this, the five major grantors, in terms of volume, accounted for 81 per cent. While the Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation (NORAD) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), are development co-operation agencies of the respective governments of Norway and Canada, Bread for the World (BFW) and Catholic Committee for Development (CCFD) are major funding agencies in Germany and France respectively. Foundation for the Progress of Human-

kind (FPH) is a foundation in France that is based on philanthropy.

The General Grant from CIDA was completed early in the triennium. The grant from FPH is semi-general in character, though included under the Specific Grants category, since it gives priority to certain programmes, without restricting its use exclusively to them. Initially provided for a four-year period, its term has now been extended. The grant from BFW for Co-ordination is for a three-year period that is ongoing and would spill over into the next triennium. A small balance of a BFW grant for Solidarity was also at hand at the close of the triennium.

The grants from the other grantors were for specific programmes. NORAD's grant is the largest of these, covering several programmes, which include many of the programmes under Communications (COM), Implications of Gear Selectivity (MR7), Coastal Zone Activities (MR8), and others. The grants from CCFD have provided support to a number of programmes individually. These include Fisheries Agreements (ET3), Cebu Conference (CA3), Women in Fisheries: Gender Relations Workshop (MR3) and European Contacts (ET7). The other grantors during the last triennium have provided grants for individual programmes.

Programme Outflows

Since the content of ICSF's programmes have been discussed in detail in the Triennial Report, they are not elaborated here. The financial details, presented in Table 5: Triennial Expenditure, provide a comparison between the amount budgeted at the last triennial meeting and the actual expenditure during the triennium.

Commencing from the next financial year, it has been planned that the expenditure on each 'functional' sub-category of Programmes and Co-ordination be analyzed further. Programme expenditure would be presented in three 'natural' categories: Remuneration, Travel and Other Expenses. Though the larger programmes would be further analyzed, those details would be primarily used for internal purposes, because it would be too cumbersome to present them here. Similarly, Co-ordination would be further

categorized, in addition to the above, into four other 'natural' categories, viz., Communication, Documentation, Establishment and Depreciation.

Co-ordination Outflows

The costs of administration are usually viewed in comparison to the total expenditure. ICSF's Co-ordination costs appear to be rather high, when viewed in these terms. As may be seen in Table 5: Triennial Expenditure, they were 28 per cent for the triennium as a whole. However, the sharp fluctuation from year to year—27 per cent, 38 per cent and 21 per cent in the three years to 31 March 1997, 1996 and 1995 respectively—underlines the fact that it is not very meaningful to see ICSF's Co-ordination costs strictly in these terms.

The costs reflected under the head Co-ordination are not purely administrative in nature. They carry a substantial element which furthers the objectives of ICSF in a direct manner, rather than as an administrative support to primary activities. Certain costs have been included here for lack of a better category because it is not desirable to have several broad categories to reflect the finer differences. The costs of the forthcoming General Body meeting are a case in point. Moreover, some programmes entail considerable direct inputs from the Co-ordination Offices, for which no specific external payments are made, such as staff time and facilities. Commencing from the next financial year, it is planned to identify the programme cost element in the Co-ordination Office expenditure and allocate it to the relevant programme. More significantly, as discussed above, the costs reflected in the triennial financial data do not include a valuation of contributed services. Such a valuation would unevenly affect programmes and co-ordination. As pointed out, it may be more substantial than the costs reflected in cash outflows. ICSF's infrastructural costs are exceptionally low, in comparison to its scale of activities. This is so whether viewed purely in terms of its fixed assets or in terms that also include rentals and other establishment expenditure necessary to maintain the infrastructure. ICSF maintains two infrastructural centres at Brussels and Chennai. Most of its programmes, however, do not entail any infrastructural costs, since they are carried out by members and associates who are based in other institutional contexts.

In conclusion, it may be pointed out that the intention of the foregoing review and related financial data is to provide a public disclosure of the financial aspect of the organization's activities. This has sought to provide an appropriate degree of transparency, rather than a complete one, by following the principles of disclosure reflected in relevant international regulations and practices. Within these principles, however, choices have necessarily had to be exercised by management as to specific points. These have been made keeping in view the relevance and comprehensibility of the information and the possibilities of its misinterpretation.

TRIENNIAL BUDGET 1998-2001

As mentioned earlier, the budget format has been provided to facilitate discussion and ready completion for the formal approval of the Triennial Budget during the course of the meeting of the General Body. The format provides a list of the programmes carried out during the last triennium or ongoing together with the expenditure thereon as a point of reference. It is proposed that the next Triennial Budget be approved for the three financial years April 1998 to March 2001. It should be noted that this pertains to a period beginning with the financial year *following* the year in which the meeting shall be held. This is a change from the practice followed in the past. The last triennial meeting in May 1994 had approved a budget pertaining to a period commencing from the financial year *during* which the meeting was held i.e., from April 1994 to March 1997. The reason for proposing this change in practice is to allow the Animation Team sufficient time to plan the programmes that are approved, and make arrangements for their financing. One of the consequences of such a change in practice would be that the ongoing financial year 1997-98 would fall in neither of the Triennial Budgets. To take care of this, it is also proposed that the projections for the ongoing year be approved separately. It is proposed, moreover, that the budget be prepared and approved in Euros rather than US Dollars. This would conform to the currency to be used in the bookkeeping of the International Finances Facility, and would enable ready comparisons between budgeted and actual expenditure.

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (SUMMARY)

BALANCE SHEET		Table 1	
as at 31st March, 1997		(Belgian Francs)	
	<u>31.3.97</u>	<u>31.3.96</u>	<u>31.3.95</u>
ASSETS			
Fixed Assets (Gross)	563,027	470,522	470,522
Current Assets	23,848	78,156	30,637
Bank & Cash	7,279,718	3,608,355	3,298,168
	<u>7,866,593</u>	<u>4,157,033</u>	<u>3,799,327</u>
LIABILITIES			
Capital	19,800	24,800	19,800
Surplus to date	6,921,091	3,231,043	3,026,823
Depreciation to date	431,054	383,574	346,033
BFW Solidarity Fund	189,106	199,274	199,274
Current Liabilities	305,542	318,342	207,397
	<u>7,866,593</u>	<u>4,157,033</u>	<u>3,799,327</u>

"Fait de bonne foi"

(signed)
Bertrand Pierre Tuerlings
Registered Accountant

The complete version of these financial statements is available on request

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (SUMMARY)

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT as at 31st March, 1997		Table 2 (Belgian Francs)	
	<u>31.3.97</u>	<u>31.3.96</u>	<u>31.3.95</u>
INCOME RECEIVED			
Donations, Subsidies etc	10,085,009	5,308,770	7,514,300
Other Income	58,496	57,499	83,141
	<u>10,143,505</u>	<u>5,366,269</u>	<u>7,597,441</u>
EXPENSES			
Programme Expenses	4,592,187	3,197,579	7,111,133
Coordination (Brussels)	707,198	747,063	874,735
Coordination (Other)	1,106,588	1,179,866	1,093,330
Depreciation (Brussels)	47,484	37,541	38,539
	<u>6,453,457</u>	<u>5,162,049</u>	<u>9,117,737</u>
NET SURPLUS	<u>3,690,048</u>	<u>204,220</u>	<u>(1,520,296)</u>

"Fait de bonne foi"

(signed)
Bertrand Pierre Tuerlings
Registered Accountant

The complete version of these financial statements is available on request

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS

CASH FLOW

Table 3

for the triennium 1994-97

(Thousand US Dollars)

Year ending	PLAN 3/98	ACTUAL		
		3/97	3/96	3/95
INFLOWS				
BFW Grants	40	86	--	28
NORAD Grants	120	130	54	30
FPH Grants	35	--	66	48
CIDA Grants		--	3	69
CCFD Grants		36	--	29
Other grants	55	54	52	27
Minor donations & income	5	2	3	7
TOTAL INFLOWS	255	308	178	238
OUTFLOWS				
Campaigns & Actions	32	55	17	139
Monitoring & Research	35	62	32	55
Exchange & Training	9	1	2	12
Communication	71	23	55	17
Coordination	148	53	65	61
Capital	5	3		5
Current accounts: net outflow (Note 1)		(1)	(2)	(3)
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	300	196	169	286
NET INFLOW/(OUTFLOW)	(45)	112	9	(48)
Cash Balance: closing (Note 2)	163	221	119	103
Cash Balance: opening (Note 2)	208	109	110	151

1. Net outflow on current accounts represent increases in current assets, such as advances given and decreases in current liabilities such as dues to suppliers.

2. Currency translation of all flows has been made using a simple average of year-end exchange rates in all tables (The averages used are BEF/USD = 33, 30 and 32 respectively). Cash balances appear to be different as opening and closing balances because this method has been applied to them also in order to depict the net flow from changes in balances.

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (SUMMARY)

TRIENNIAL INCOME RECEIVED

Table 4

for the triennium 1994-97

(Thousand US Dollars)

Code	Source	Year Ended	3/97	3/96	3/95
GRANTS					
BFW1	Bread for the World (BFW), Germany		--	--	--
BFW3	----ditto----		--	--	28
BFW4	----ditto----		86	--	--
NOR1	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), Norway		13	--	--
NOR2	----ditto----		--	--	30
NOR3	----ditto----		117	54	--
FPH1	Foundation for the Progress of Humankind (FPH), France		--	66	48
CID2	Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Canada		--	3	69
CCF2	Comite Catholique contre la Faim et pour le Developpement (CCFD), France		--	--	--
CCF4	----ditto----		--	--	19
CCF5	----ditto----		--	--	8
CCF6	----ditto----		36	--	--
MIS1	Bischofliche Hilfswerk Misereor, Germany		15	--	--
MIS2	----ditto----		--	25	--
FAO1	Food & Agriculture Organization, Rome		--	6	4
CAD1	Christian Aid, United Kingdom		--	11	--
EEF1	Entraide et Fraternite, Belgium		--	10	--
CEB	Cebemo, The Netherlands		29	--	--
CMF	Commonwealth Foundation, UK		6	--	--
ECO1	Environmental Coalition, Canada		4	--	9
OXF1	Oxfam, United Kingdom		--	--	13
WWF1	Worldwide Fund for Nature, Australia		--	--	3
TOTAL GRANTS			306	175	231
Minor donations			-	1	4
Financial income			2	2	3
TOTAL ALL INCOME			308	178	238

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS

TRIENNIAL EXPENDITURE

Table 5

for the triennium 1994-97

(Thousand US Dollars)

Activity	Year ending	Actual	Plan	Actual			Budget	Triennial Budget		
		3 Yrs	3/98	3/97	3/96	3/95	3 YRS	3/97	3/96	3/95
CAMPAIGNS & ACTION		211	32	55	17	139	220	62	84	74
CA1 Task Force: Distant Water Vessels		21		16	3	2	40	-	15	25
CA2 UNCED f/up: Straddling Stocks		17	-	-	9	8	5	-	-	5
CA3 Cebu Conference		129	-	-	-	129	8	2	2	4
CA4 Coastal Management Workshop		13	2	13	-	-	-	-	-	-
CA5 FAO's Code of Conduct f/up		12	23	12	-	-	45	15	15	15
CA6 UNCED f/up: Sustainable Devmt		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CA7 ILO's Maritime Convention		8	-	3	5	-	12	-	12	-
CA8 Gear Selectivity Campaign		3	2	3	-	-	65	30	25	10
CA9 Coalition for Fair Fisheries Agrmts		8	2	8	-	-	30	10	10	10
CA10 World Forum			3							
CA Requests from Fishworkers' Orgns		-	-	-	-	-	15	5	5	5
MONITORING & RESEARCH		149	35	62	32	55	200	60	52	88
MR2 Impact of Aquaculture			-	-	-		28	-	-	28
MR3 Women in Fisheries		146	33	62	32	52	120	40	40	40
MR4 Marine Legislation		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MR5 Impact of International Trade		-	-	-	-	-	22	10	2	10
MR6 Impact of Trawling		3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
MR7 Gear Selectivity Implications		-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MR8 Coastal Zone Activities		-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-
MR9 World Trade Organization			2							
MR Requests from Fishworkers' Orgns		-	-	-	-	-	30	10	10	10

continued...2

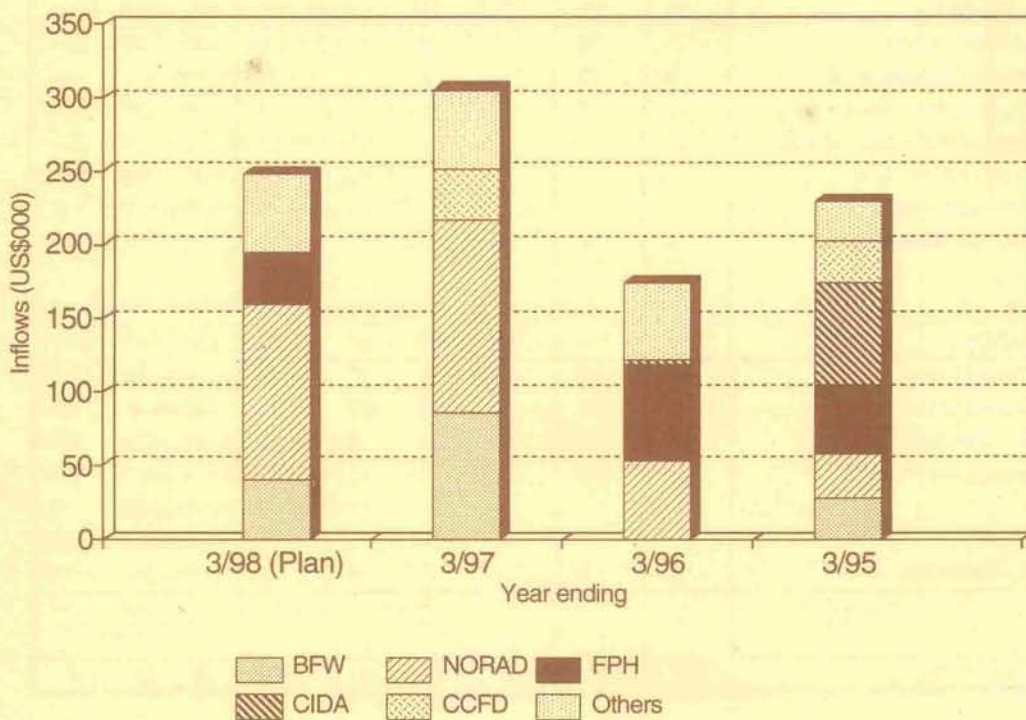
TRIENNIAL EXPENDITURE

1994-97 (continued)

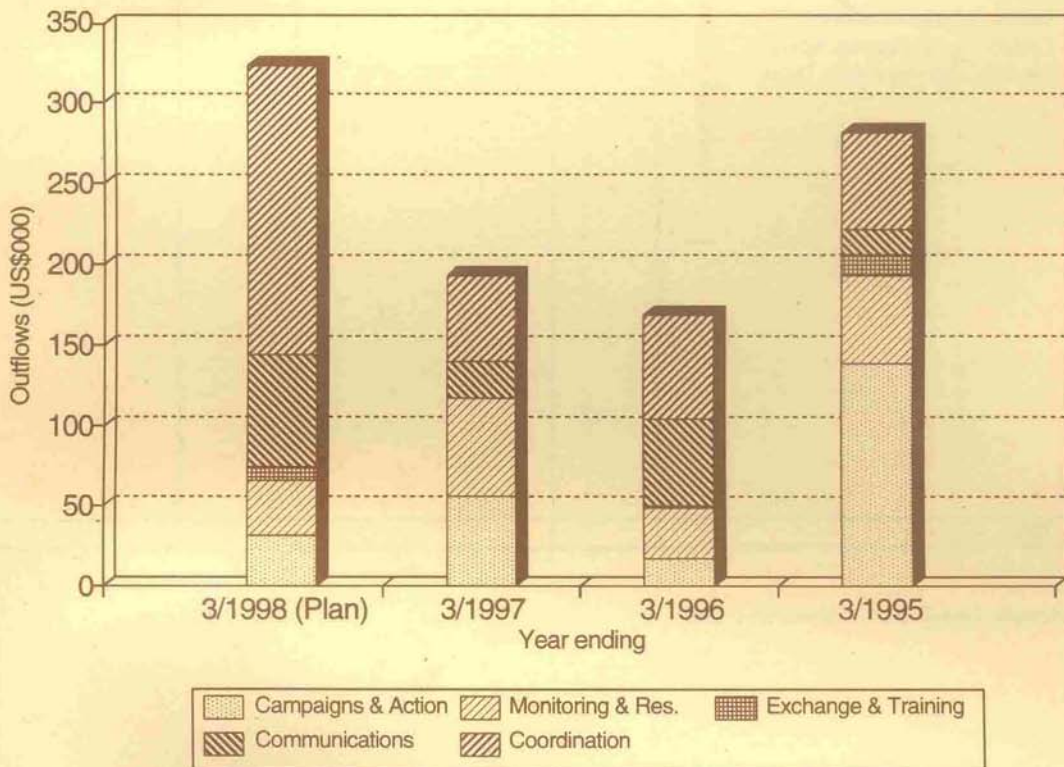
Table 5

Activity	Year ending	Actual	Plan	Actual			Budget	Triennial Budget		
		3 Yrs	3/98	3/97	3/96	3/95	3 YRS	3/97	3/96	3/95
EXCHANGE & TRAINING		15	9	1	2	12	-	-	-	0
ET3 Fisheries Agreements		8	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-
ET7 European Contacts		7	2	1	2	4	-	-	-	-
ET8 African Contacts		-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ET9 Latin American Contacts		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ET10 Asian Contacts		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ET11 Inter-Regional Contacts		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
COMMUNICATIONS		95	71	23	55	17	425	142	142	141
COM1 Samudra Reports		68	18	14	43	11	108	36	36	36
COM2 Dossiers & Monographs		8	20	1	7	-	29	10	10	9
COM3 Regional Work - Africa		6	5	-	5	1	75	25	25	25
COM4 Regional Work - Latin America		5	-	-	-	5	75	25	25	25
COM5 Regional Work - Asia		-	-	-	-	-	75	25	25	25
COM6 Inter-regional Work		-	-	-	-	-	45	15	15	15
COM7 Electronic Networking		8	28	8	-	-	18	6	6	6
CO-ORDINATION		179	148	53	65	61	243	81	81	81
COR1 Chennai Office		59	25	14	18	27	66	22	22	22
COR2 Brussels Office		73	25	21	25	27	108	36	36	36
COR3 Animation Team		47	28	18	22	7	69	23	23	23
COR4 General Body		-	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE		8	5	3	-	5	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		657	300	197	171	289	1,088	345	359	384

Inflows from Grants



Outflows on Activities



INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS

TRIENNIAL BUDGET
for the triennium 1998-2001

Format: Feb, 1998
(Thousand Euros)*

EXPENDITURE

	BUDGET '98-01	3/01	BUDGET 3/00 3/99	ACTUAL '94-'97	NOTES
CAMPAIGNS AND ACTION					
1 Task Force: Distant Water Vessels				21	
2 UNCED f/up: Straddling Stocks				17	
3 Cebu Conference				129	
4 Coastal Management Workshop				13	
5 FOA s Code of Conduct f/up				12	
6 UNCED f/up: Sustainable Devmt				--	
7 ILO s Maritime Convention				8	
8 Gear Selectivity Campaign				3	
9 Gender Relations Workshop				8	
10 Coalition for Fair Fisheries Agrmts					
11 Requests from Fishworkers Orgns					
Total				211	

* Actuals for 1994-97 are in thousand US Dollars

TRIENNIAL BUDGET

	BUDGET	BUDGET		ACTUAL	NOTES
	'98-01	3/01	3/00 3/99	'94-'97	
MONITORING & RESEARCH					
1 Impact of Aquaculture				--	
2 Women in Fisheries				146	
3 Marine Legislation				--	
4 Impact of International Trade				--	
5 Impact of Trawling				3	
6 Gear Selectivity Implictns				--	
7 Coastal Zone Activities				--	
8 Requests from Fishworkers Orgns				.	
Total	150			149	

TRIENNIAL BUDGET

	BUDGET '98-01	BUDGET 3/01	BUDGET 3/00	BUDGET 3/99	ACTUAL '94-'97	NOTES
EXCHANGE & TRAINING						
3 Fisheries Agreements					8	
7 European Contacts					7	
8 African Contacts					--	
9 Latin American Contacts					--	
10 Asian Contacts					--	
11 Inter-Regional Contacts					--	
Total					15	
COMMUNICATIONS						
1 Samudra Reports					68	
2 Dossiers & Monographs					8	
3 Regional Work - Africa					6	
4 Regional Work - Latin America					5	
5 Regional Work - Asia					--	
6 Inter-Regional Work					--	
7 Electronic Networking					8	
Total						

TRIENNIAL BUDGET

	BUDGET '98-01	BUDGET 3/01 3/00 3/99	ACTUAL '94-'97	NOTES
COORDINATION				
1 Madras Remuneration			28	
2 Madras Office			59	
3 Brussels Office			73	
4 Animation Team			19	
5 General Body			--	
Total			179	
Capital Expenditure			8	
BUDGET SUMMARY				
Campaigns & Action			211	
Monitoring & Research			149	
Exchange & Training			15	
Communications			95	
Coordination			179	
Capital			8	
Total Expenditure			657	

LIST OF REGULAR MEMBERS

Mr Aliou SALL	Senegal
Mr Kobla AMEGAVIE	Togo
Mr Pisit CHARNSNOH	Thailand
Mr Abdus M SABUR	Thailand
Ms Amporn SUGANDHAVANIJ	Thailand
Ms Nenita CURA	Philippines
Mr Virgilio CRISTOBAL	Philippines
Ms Sock-Nye NG	Hong Kong, China
Mr John KURIEN	India
Mr V VIVEKANANDAN	India
Ms Nalini NAYAK	India
Mr Francisco de B GUTIERREZ	Colombia
Mr Hernan PERALTA BOURONCLE	Peru
Mr Antonio Carlos DIEGUES	Brazil
Mr Héctor Luis MORALES	Chile
Mr Pierre GILLET	Belgium
Mr James SMITH	France
Mr Brian O'RIORDAN	UK
Mr Michael BELLIVEAU	Canada

LIST OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Dr Kaningini MWENYIMALI	Burundi
Ms Cornelie QUIST	Philippines
Sr Nathanael MARANHAO	Brazil
Mr René SCHARER	Brazil
Mr Alain LE SANN	France
Ms. Anna-Rosa MARTINEZ I PRAT	Spain

ANIMATION TEAM (1994-1998)

Ms Nenita CURA	Philippines
Mr Antonio Carlos DIEGUES	Brazil
Mr V VIVEKANANDAN	India
Mr Pierre GILLET	Belgium
Mr Kobla AMEGAVIE	Togo
Mr Sebastian MATHEW	India (Ex-Officio)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- Mr Pierre Tuerlings for voluntary audit of accounts at Brussels;
- Mr V. Anantharaman for auditing the accounts of the Madras office; and
- Ms Pamela Gordon and Ms Béatrice Gorez for secretarial assistance.

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

1993-94 to 1996-97

ICSF is an international NGO working on issues that concern fishworkers the world over. It is in status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN and is on ILO's Special List of Non-Governmental International Organization. It also has Liaison Status with FAO. Registered in Geneva, ICSF has offices in Chennai, India and Brussels, Belgium. As a global network of community organizers, teachers, technicians, researchers and scientists, ICSF's activities encompass monitoring and research, exchange and training, campaigns and action, as well communications.

