



SUSTAINABLE USE OF FISHERY RESOURCES AND PARTICIPATION OF AFRICAN STATES AT INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES MEETINGS

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We all have the duty and
responsibility to ensure that we
manage our environment and that
we operate (reduce) the resources
responsibly



Meanwhile, our countries have also the duty to derive maximum profits from the exploitation of their natural resources (*live fish*), and in particular to ensure food and nutrition security of their populations



The principle of sustainable use of marine resources

- The principle is well established (UNCLOS);
*The coastal State has "sovereign rights for the purposes and the **exploitation, conservation and management** of natural resources, the waters superjacent to the seabed, the seabed ... "*
- It recognizes the sovereign rights of countries - particularly coastal States - to **exploit** their marine resources in their EEZs;
- Without threatening **the existence** of a particular species;
- By ensuring the **conservation** of individual species for present and future generations



With a view to reconciling **conservation** and **exploitation**, a number of international conventions and treaties have been adopted by the international community (eg UNCLOS, IWC, CITES, ICCAT, etc.).



Why adopt or adhere to these Conventions?

UNCLOS in 1982: the regime for the exploitation of all marine resources

- Provides an international basis for efforts to protect and develop the marine environment in a sustainable manner;
- It encourages States to cooperate in the conservation and management of living marine resources on the high seas;

The Policy Framework and Strategy for Reform of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa:

- To become members or participants in the cooperation of appropriate RFMOs;
- To ratify and implement the relevant international instruments for the conservation and sustainable use;



ATLAFCO Action to Strengthen Africa's Voice in Fisheries Governance and Management

Axis of the Action Plan

- Encourages adherence or participation in cooperation within RFMOs;
- Organizes preparatory meetings before major meetings (ICCAT, IWC, CITES, ...):
 - Ensure the participation of at least one representative;
 - Preparation for the agenda;
 - Participation in the Scientific Committees;
 - Updating the status of the States contributions ;
 - Harmonization of positions;
 - Actively participate in decision-making;



Mixed results

- Assured participation of at least one national by MS.
- **ICCAT** meetings (Session & WG):
 - Strong participation
 - Common position harmonized
- **17th CITES Session:** Patent failure
 - contradictory positions of the MS, despite the harmonization meeting;
- **IWC66th Session:**
 - Loss of voting rights,



The participation of Member States of ATLAFCO in IWC: Africa at the center of international maritime discussions

- African countries are neither hunters nor consumers of whales. However, their accession to this Convention responds to the need:
- - participate in the global governance of the seas and oceans;
- - to defend the **fundamental principles** of an effective and sustainable management of fisheries resources;



The Drift of the International Whaling Commission (1)

- The IWC is an international organization created in 1946 by the International Convention **to regulate** whaling. Its main functions:
 - Protection of certain species of whales
 - Establishment of whale sanctuaries
 - Limit on the number and size of whales that may be taken
 - Define whaling seasons (opening and closing)
= **traditional management measures**



La Dérive de la Commission Baleinière Internationale (2)

- From Organization of management of various stocks of whales to an organization **prohibiting** all whales from hunting, regardless of:
 - stock status
 - principles set out in the preamble to its Convention,
 - science ;
 - cultural practices and local preferences
- An inflexible organization, dominated by radical ecological ideas;
- Decision-making contrary to the interests of developing countries;
(food and nutrition security and sovereignty, livelihood protection, aboriginal subsistence whaling, small-scale coastal whale hunting)



What to do for an active and positive participation

- Full participation (with voting rights); (ensure payment of contributions)
- Promotion of a single national policy for the management of natural resources, including fisheries, based on the principle of sustainable use;
- National coordination among government authorities involved in the management of these resources; (Institutionalize dialogue between the Department of Fisheries and the Department of the Environment)



Conclusion

Go beyond the pure and simple conservation of (marine) resources for sustainable use of natural resources (marine) is essential to ensure the long-term survival of our planet and of its inhabitants



THANKS

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