

Translated from Spanish

Information for the study on “the assistance available to and measures that may be taken by developing States to realize the benefits of sustainable and effective development of marine resources”

I. Introduction

The Peruvian sea has abundant fishery resources consisting primarily of pelagic species, which are used mainly for products for indirect human consumption such as fishmeal and fish oil.

The domestic market is being strengthened through informational, educational and promotional campaigns on aquatic biological products for direct human consumption, which account for only 9.6 per cent of total landings, with canned and frozen products being the most important. The Peruvian State promotes the benefits of a fish-based diet, its high nutritive value and new forms of presentation that are more appealing to the public, in order to expand and popularize the consumption of such products.

Peru is a leader in terms of fish landings and the production and export of fishmeal. Despite the wide diversity of Peru's marine resources, its fishing activity uses anchovies as a primary input. This species is dominant in the marine ecosystem; its biomass averages some 8 million metric tons per year.

The development of the fisheries sector is directly linked to the development of renewable aquatic biological resources. The regulation of all fishing and aquaculture activity involving the exploitation of aquatic biological resources is warranted from an economic and social standpoint. Consequently, the Peruvian State has an obligation to promote, protect, conserve and control the rational development of these resources with a view to maintaining the sustainable development of fishing and aquaculture activities and the environment.

II. Progress in the management of aquatic biological resources

The Government's policy is geared to reducing poverty, promoting employment creation and improving the public's diet through higher per capita consumption of fish. To this end, the fisheries sector is formulating a set of legal and fisheries management measures to promote new fisheries, aquaculture, fishing for direct human consumption and, by extension, artisanal fisheries. A basic aspect of fishing activity and of the State's role is the need to manage fisheries in a way that ensures the activity's sustainability.

The administration and management of fisheries through regulation of the sector is organized into two instruments: general standards regulating the development of fishing activities and specific rules relating primarily to the administration of fishing permits and licences.

2.1 General standards

[...]

IV. Plans and expectations for the fisheries and aquaculture sector

The Peruvian sea will be of strategic value in the coming decades, since catch levels in some of the world's leading fisheries are likely to collapse, thus failing to cover requirements in terms of marine proteins. As aquaculture will continue to depend on fishmeal, and Peru is a leading producer of this product, the Peruvian fishing industry will continue to benefit.

The challenge is to build a modern fisheries sector with more diversified products and higher value added. This will be done through coordination between the public and private sectors. These efforts must be complemented by an efficient marketing network for fresh, frozen and canned fish that will enable the country to develop a competitive advantage in the external and domestic markets. Gastronomic tourism should also be developed.

V. Priorities for the fisheries and aquaculture sector

The priorities in this sector are to:

- Regulate the sector, combating informal activities and illegal fishing and promoting stability and transparency in its activities;
- Strengthen scientific institutions;
- Increase, diversify and enhance the value added of the exportable supply, based on principles of long-term sustainability and ensuring that the products meet health and safety standards.

... integrated management of marine coastal areas, which is led by IMARPE through a multidisciplinary technical group at the national level.

Development of new technologies

IMARPE has high-technology equipment for on-site, remote and indirect collection of data. The information is processed with scientific computer programs that meet current international standards. Each year data are collected for more than 1,200 days using a dedicated fleet consisting of three scientific vessels and six smaller-scale research vessels. In addition, intensive biological sampling is carried out at landing points, at the facilities of our system of laboratories all along the coast. The technology consists of recently acquired and periodically renewed equipment and instruments. These new technologies and those found in three satellite remote sensing laboratories (Argos, HRPT and Sea WIFS) add to the fisheries information that forms the foundation for analysis and the generation of fisheries management measures.
