

Workshop for West African Media and Artisanal Fishing Sector Professionals to raise awareness about responsible management of fisheries resources.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants at the “Workshop for West African Media and Artisanal Sector Professionals to raise awareness about responsible management of fisheries resources”, held in Nouadhibou, Mauritania from 4 to 7 September 2006, recommended that:

Regarding the conservation of resources, States should:

- ensure that responsible fishing practices are respected, in accordance with the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and ban trawling, dredging and the use of monofilament in the coastal zone;
- take all necessary measures to safeguard the environment and the coastal marine ecosystem;
- implement all provisions necessary for transparency, monitoring and control of illegal fishing activities;
- make public, through the media, information about illegal fishing practices (details of vessels, crew, flag, fine imposed, ship owner, etc) as well as the results of the penalties imposed.

The Sub Regional Fisheries Committee (SRFC/CSRP) should:

- associate and directly involve artisanal fishing professional organisations in its activities, in the decision-making process and in monitoring its programs;

Professional Artisanal Fishing Organizations should:

- consolidate internal democracy and ensure transparency and good governance in their activities;
- strengthen the participation of women in their decision-making processes;
- provide facilities for communication (fishermen’s centres, etc) awareness raising, education, information, and training of artisanal fishing communities

A Communications Strategy should be put in place for all activities undertaken in the fisheries sector, including:

- the creation of community radio programmes to inform the general public about fishing activities;
- publishing a regional paper devoted to all the aspects of fishing;
- the organization of specialized training courses for the media on fisheries issues
- Popularisation of fisheries research results carried out by oceanographic and fisheries related research institutions