

DEVELOPMENT PLANS

During its first year in office, the government of President Ernesto Zedillo issued its six-year program for the development of the fishery. It called for the expansion of fishing infrastructure and production capacity to be balanced with the development of more modern models of fishery management in order to prevent over-exploitation. The government's other priorities include modernizing the fishing fleet, rehabilitating coastal ecosystems, and developing aquaculture.

The *Cámara Nacional de la Industria Pesquera (Canainpes)*, National Fishing Industry Association, is more concerned with short-run threats to the industry. *Cámara* members tend to be the larger operators and a very large proportion of them are engaged in shrimp fishing, which is subject to many new regulations and health standards.

The *Canainpes* action plan for 1995 to 1996 stresses the need to negotiate implementation of fisheries management regulations with the government. It is also concerned with the embargo of Mexican tuna, as well as a threatened boycott of shrimp from the Gulf of Mexico. It has recognized the need to reduce dolphin mortality in the tuna fishery and to protect the habitat of the marine turtle.

Cámara officials are also concerned about fee increases and operational problems associated with the integrated port administrations. Planned increases in the price of diesel fuel by *Petróleos Mexicanos (Pemex)*, the national oil company, are also seen as a serious threat.

The modernization of Mexico's fisheries will require considerable inputs of foreign equipment and services. Government plans to promote the growth of aquaculture and mariculture will also create ongoing demand for specialized equipment and services. Observers point to several specific needs:

- technology for tracking and recording fish populations;
- development of fisheries regulation and management models;
- maintenance services for existing fishing infrastructure;
- technologies for coastal lagoon ecosystem rehabilitation; and
- systems for aquaculture and mariculture.