

The Act under discussion has taken into consideration the need of funding fishery research in the country, and it is proposing the creation of a "Research Fund", which would have a very positive impact, especially considering that research in the aquatic environment, is very expensive.

There is a political "agreement" among various Parliamentarians to approve the Act, with some indications: a) keep the free access to a resource until otherwise is determined; b) to limit the number of vessels; c) global quotas could be enacted; d) after three years of the new Act, a portion of those global quota could be auctioned.

If the Parliament does not approve the "negotiated modification", then the Act approved by the Military Government could be enacted. That Act established that the access would be regulated by "individual, divisible and transferable quotas". The mechanism for assigning would be: 75% of the quota by "historic rights", and 25% of the quota by "auctioning". That Act does not consider a research fund either.

There is also, among some Parliamentarians, the idea of creating a Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture. Today, the Subsecretaria (Undersecretariat) of Fisheries is under the umbrella of the Ministry of Economy. It would make sense to have a special Ministry, because it would mean a better organization of the Public Sector, with a better coordination and better management. As an example, the Fisheries Development Institute (IFOP) is not under the Undersecretariat of Fisheries, but under the Ministry of Economic Development (CORFO).

That proposed Ministry would have a new Corporation to serve the artisanal fishermen and a large subsector constituted by small industries. These groups are in need of financing, technical assistance in different areas, in transfer of technologies, and so on. Those needs could be covered throughout that new Corporation.