

119. Improving seafood quality [and fisheries based industrialisation including deep-sea fishing for developing countries, in particular it] will be crucial for promoting trade and meeting social goals linked to nutrition and health.(27)

120. Countries could agree on global quality assurance systems in order to improve consumer confidence and maximize economic returns.(27(a))

121. Countries with the assistance of FAO could develop programmes to improve handling and processing, reducing post-harvest losses and discards.(27(b))

122. Coastal States could strengthen environmentally sound artisanal and subsistence fishing activities, collaborate with traditional coastal communities for the elimination of unsound ones and strengthen training and extension services in coordination with rural agriculture services together with appropriate financing mechanisms.(29(c))

#### Financing and Costing

123. Development agencies and donors should provide technical and financial support through regional organisations.(28(a))

124. Countries could utilize development funding for habitat management [and for action oriented research projects to immediately address prevailing problems].(24(c))

125. FAO should assist countries to develop a program for transfer of management methods and environmentally sound fishing technology, particularly for small scale fishing and for the protection of resources with low resilience (marine mammals, sharks), [and trade in tropical fishing for the aquarium business as well as trade in corals.](24(d))

#### D. ADDRESSING CRITICAL UNCERTAINTIES [FOR OCEAN MANAGEMENT] AND CLIMATE CHANGE

##### Basis for action

126. The cornerstone for protecting the oceans and coastal areas and for providing rational use and development of their living and non-living resources is the ability to determine the present state of systems and predict future conditions. Effective management of oceans and coastal areas is often stalled by the high degree of uncertainties in present information. This limits the ability to make predictions and assess environmental change. In order to rationally manage the marine and coastal environment and its resources in accordance with international law, we need to develop the ability to predict natural and man-induced changes in marine and coastal ecosystems. Accordingly, it is necessary to restructure the mechanisms for generating and disseminating information based on the results of research and monitoring activities. Research, systematic observation and monitoring information generated must be correctly communicated to all levels of the management structure and the public.(69)