

External Aid in Fisheries

External aid to the fisheries sector of developing countries has increased threefold over the past 10 years, from US\$139 million in 1974 to \$475 million in 1983. When inflationary effects are accounted for, the increase still amounts to a doubling of aid during the period.

The details are contained in a recent FAO publication by Helga Josupeit.* The following article highlights other aspects of fisheries aid from data in that publication.

Capital assistance for vessels, ports and other infrastructure consistently comprised three-quarters or more of all aid in the fisheries sector during 1974 to 1983.

The total aid amount is not insignificant. By 1983 it represented a low of \$0.112 *per inhabitant* of Asia to a high of \$2.191 *per inhabitant* of the Pacific Islands. In terms of the fisheries sector, the 1983 external assistance was equivalent to at least a month's salary for every fisherman. The regional breakdown was as follows:

Region	Total assistance US\$ x 10 ⁶	Assistance/ fisherman US\$
Africa	135	80
Asia	177	33
Latin America	93	128
Oceania	13	139
Near East	45	188
Caribbean	7	97

Research Funds

External aid allocations for research grew to \$57 million in 1981 but fell sharply in following years. These amounts include capital expenditure on research

vessels and facilities. The funding for research *per se* in developing countries has shown a slow decline in recent years. If inflation is taken into account the real decline has been much steeper. In 1983 technical assistance for research was only 3.4% of total fisheries aid.

While funding for research has been declining, other sectors have been increasingly favored.

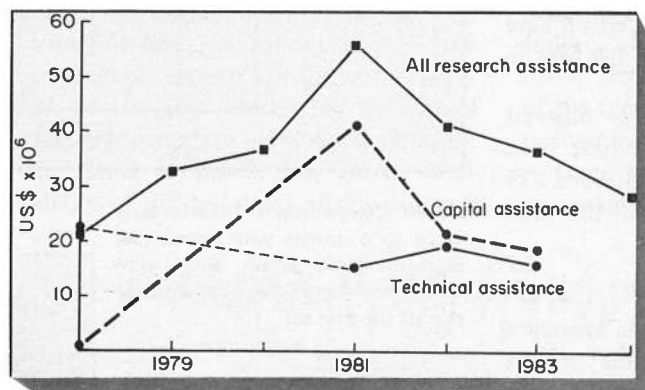
Small-scale Fisheries

External assistance for small-scale fisheries has been increasing substantially over recent years. Interestingly, this was the result of limited success in earlier development projects which concentrated on increasing production through provision of large vessels and fishing harbors. Attention turned to the small-scale

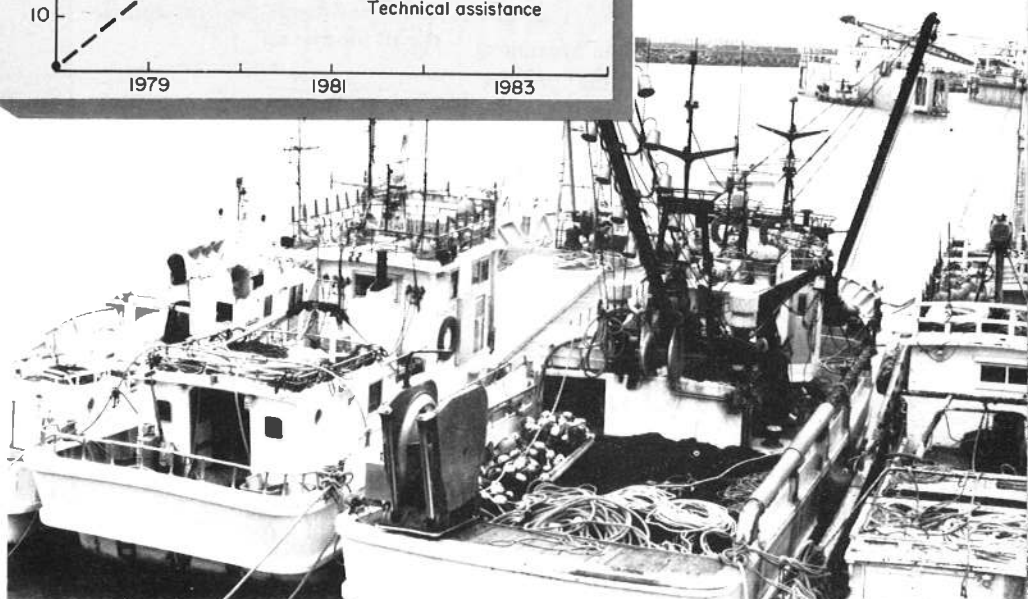
sector, but until recently focused again on increasing production by upgrading boats and gear, even though most small-scale fisheries were already being fished at too high a level of effort. Such projects are still being funded but a "new generation" of small-scale fisheries projects is now including the processing and distribution sectors. An example is the FAO/UNDP Bay of Bengal Programme.

Aquaculture

Aquaculture development funding is the other growth area in external aid, with a trebling of funding from 1978 to 1981. Increases in yields from aquaculture have been comparatively modest at a steady 7%/year over recent years (much better, however, than total world food production and capture fisheries



External aid for research. The figure for 1984 is preliminary.



*Josupeit, H. A survey of external assistance to the fisheries sector in developing countries 1978 to 1984. FAO Fisheries Circular 755, Revision 1, 53 p.

production increases of 1.9 and 1.6%/year, respectively).

Year	External assistance for Aquaculture development (US\$ x 10 ⁶)	External assistance for Small-scale fisheries (US\$ x 10 ⁶)
1978	16.8	32.6
1979	31.6	48.9
1980	47.2	63.0
1981	56.3	67.5
1982	71.3	75.4
1983	75.3	78.8

Who Provides the Aid?

Bilateral donors (aid from a developed to a developing country), as a group, provide nearly half of all assistance. The regional development banks (the Inter-American Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, African and West African Development Banks) are becoming increasingly active, now providing about 30% of all assistance. The World Bank provides another 15% of fisheries aid. Other significant donors are the European Economic Community (EEC) and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which have also increased their aid for fisheries in recent years.

Japan has been the major bilateral donor and its contributions have been steadily increasing up to 1983, when \$75 million were provided, 45% of this total earmarked for Asia.

Who Receives the Aid?

It is most noteworthy that assistance is not primarily aimed at the poorest countries. Indeed, assistance to the poorest countries, those with average per capita annual income less than \$200, has been decreasing in recent years.

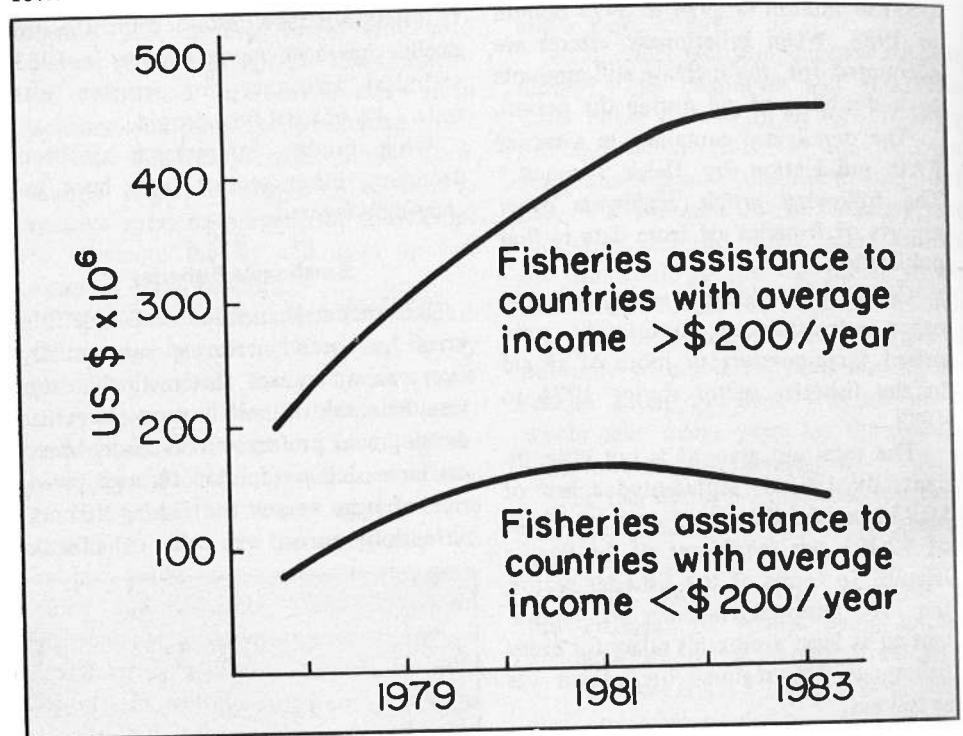
Regional distribution of fisheries aid has changed somewhat over recent years. Asia received increasing fisheries aid until 1980; the level of assistance has since been static. Asia still receives the largest share of fisheries aid but Africa appears likely to become the major recipient in the future; African aid has been increasing consistently in past years and recent natural catastrophes there suggest that the rate of fisheries assistance may accelerate. Latin America has also taken

a larger share of total assistance in fisheries in recent years, largely as the result of increased activity in this sector by the Inter-American Development Bank.

At the subregional level, African assistance in fisheries has been provided mainly to the northwestern countries (Mauritania to Sierra Leone), 27%; the southeast Atlantic countries, 20% and the southeast Indian Ocean countries, 35%, of which Somalia alone receives 13%.

East and Southeast Asia account for half of Asian fisheries assistance, while the Southern Asian countries receive 40%.

In Latin America, the Central American countries receive the major share, 45%. Atlantic coastal nations receive 35%; the land-locked countries, 12% and Pacific countries (Ecuador, Peru and Chile), 8%.



Above: Comparison of fisheries assistance to countries with average per capita income above and below \$200/year. Right: Regional distribution of fisheries aid.

