



United Nations Report on the Oceans and the Law of the Sea

Input from the Directorate for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

The Fisheries Division of the Directorate for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has undertaken a number of activities that are relevant for the UN process with regard to the "Oceans and the law of the Sea". The following highlights work that were undertaken in the 2000-2002 Program of Work of the OECD's Fisheries Committee.

i) ***Protecting vulnerable marine eco-systems***

The OECD Committee for Fisheries finalised in 2002 a major undertaking on fisheries management costs. The purpose in this study is to analyse how fisheries services and their costs vary between countries, fisheries and management systems and to show how countries endeavour to ensure that fisheries services meet the requirements of fisheries management systems. From an economic perspective, a primary objective of fisheries management is to generate resource rent from the exploitation of available fish resources, subject to sustainability considerations. In evaluating how



There is a significant degree of diversity across OECD countries regarding the key policy issues to which current efforts to develop sustainability indicators are being applied. In a number of countries the policy priority is the assessment of regional impacts of fisheries policy changes, particularly with respect to the impact on local and regional communities. Other countries are more focussed on the economic performance of their national fleets and of the various fisheries within their EEZs.

The work on economic and social sustainability indicators for fisheries will be published as a special chapter in the OECD Review of Fisheries which will be published in the first quarter of 2003.

iii) Effective inter agency co-operation

There is an on-going effort between the OECD and specialised UN agencies (notably the FAO and UNEP) to ensure that overlapping of work on fisheries is avoided or kept at a very minimum. In 2001 a group of fisheries ministers met in Manila with participation from OECD, FAO

WTO, UNEP, SADC and APEC. This group has met also in 2002 and is now seeking to broaden its scope to include fisheries trade issues in general as well. The co-operation among the secretariats has revealed that there is limited risk of duplication of work. Rather, the organisation's work and mandates are mutually supportive although an effort could be invested into seeking opportunities for synergy and