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THE MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION SERVICE: Technical and Extension Series envisages the rapid dissemination of information on marine and brackish water fishery resources and allied data available with the National Marine Living Resources Data Centre (NMLRDC) and the Research Divisions of the Institute, results of proven researches for transfer of technology to the fish farmers and industry and of other relevant information needed for Research and Development efforts in the marine fisheries sector.

Abbreviation - *Mar. Fish. Infor. Ser. T & E Ser.*, No. 58: 1984

TWO INCIDENTS OF FIRE ACCIDENT AT MADRAS FISHING HARBOUR DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL '84*

On the early hours of 5-4-84 at about 4 A.M. the first fire accident took place. On the southern side of the fish landing centre at Kasimode, one of the thatched sheds, used mainly for prawn peeling and handling caught fire first. The fire quickly spread in the northern direction causing complete damage to 42 sheds, six trawlers, 22 sets of *catamarans*, one fibre glass boat and six trawl nets. At the adjoining site the fire devastated all the equipments and tools used in the dry docking of mechanised boats. Sheds belonging to the Madras Fishermen Co-operative Federation and Tamil Nadu Fisheries Corporation were also affected by the fire. Ten fire fighting units battled for more than four hours and brought the fire under control. The estimated loss was over six lakhs. Fortunately there was no loss of life. The breakup figures for the material loss is as follows:

Cost of trawlers: Rs. 5,20,000.00

Cost of carrier boat (fibre glass): Rs. 35,000.00

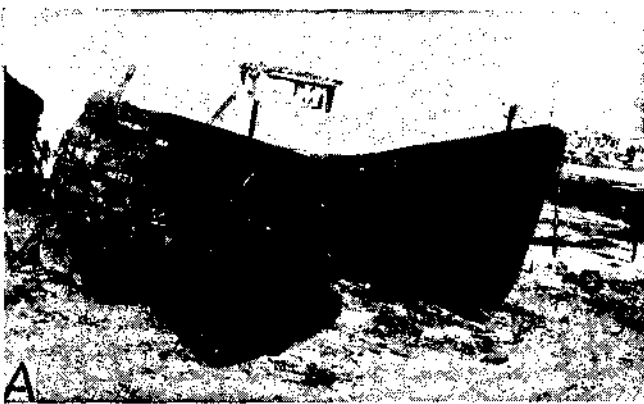
Cost of catamarans: Rs. 20,000.00

Cost of equipment used in dry docking the boats:
Rs. 20,000.00

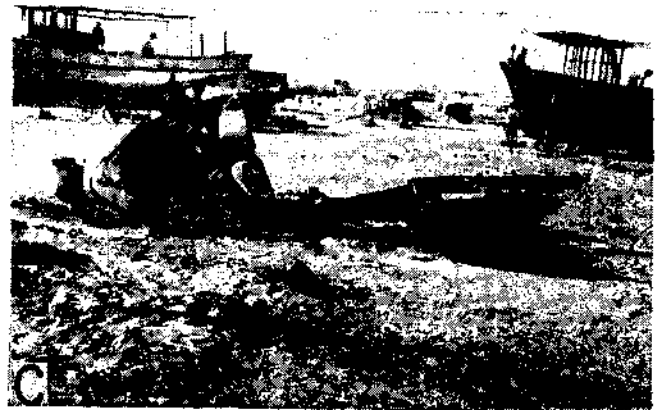
Cost of fishing nets: Rs. 21,000.00

Total loss: Rs. 6,16,000.00

Within a fortnight, another instance of fire outbreak took place on 16-4-84 in the vicinity of the first fire disaster. The second fire accident according to press reports and personal enquiry, took place in the early morning. The fire broke out on the northern side, well beyond the existing compound wall away from the shore. A total number of 204 sheds including five tea stalls were destroyed in the fire accident. Again there was no loss to life. No fishing boats were affected. Only 15 nets were damaged by the fire. The total loss was estimated to be around seven lakhs.



Two old boats kept for repair burnt out.



Partly burnt fibreglass boat.

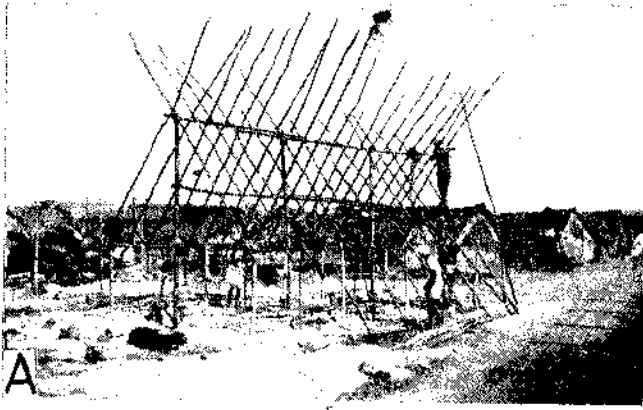


Engine of a boat destroyed by fire.



Location of prawn peeling shed - totally gutted.

* Prepared by D. B. James, R. Sarvesan and S. Chandrasekar.



Burnt shed being reconstructed.



Area showing burnt sheds.



Burnt planks of *catamaran*.



Area showing place where prawn peeling sheds were completely gutted.



Planks of *catamaran* damaged by fire.



Burnt peeling sheds showing the partly burntout poles.