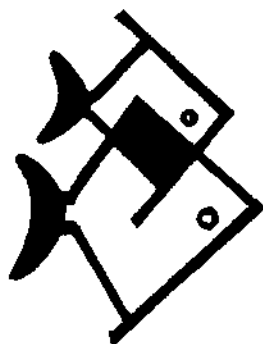


INDIAN FISHERIES

1947 - 1977



**ISSUED ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF
THE INDIAN OCEAN FISHERY COMMISSION HELD AT COCHIN FROM
19TH TO 26TH OCTOBER, 1977**

fishing industry

Three decades ago, the fishing industry of India was modest and covered merely the catching of fish and their disposal in fresh condition locally or processing the surplus by traditional methods, and trading with the neighbouring countries. With the commencement of export of frozen fish products from 1953, rapid mechanisation of fishing operations, application of modern methods of preservation and processing, a fishing industry oriented mainly towards export got gradually established in the country. At present, the fishing industry of the country includes the main industry of catching, processing, transportation, distribution and marketing, and the ancillary industries such as fishing vessels construction; manufacture of main and auxillary engines, fishing vessels components, fishing gears, refrigeration and cold storage equipments. The fishing industry is organised under private, corporate and co-operative sectors.

THE MAIN INDUSTRY

Private sector

By and large, the fishing industry of the country is in the private sector. This includes the traditional

fishing industry as practised by the small-fishermen; small partnership or limited companies and large business houses. Similarly, the investment on fishing establishments varies from a few hundreds of rupees by the small-fishermen to huge capital investment by the larger Companies. Likewise, its operation and management differs from simple catching and immediate disposal in the landing centres to an integrated system of fishing, processing and marketing, including export. While the traditional sector of the fishing industry is still in an unorganised state, the industry under the companies and larger houses is fairly well organised.

The number of indigenous crafts and gears, mechanised boats and trawlers, freezing and canning plants, cold storages, etc., involved in the fishing industry is given elsewhere in this publication. In the marine products export trade, there were 674 registered exporters in 1975. A review of the progress of the fishing industry *vis-a-vis* the resources and opportunities available, indicates that the pace of growth has been slow from the expected level. This is because

of the keen competition from the land-based industries which offer relatively less risk and comfortable business than the hazardous fishing operations. Further, the marine products industry is primarily oriented towards export and has a lean domestic base. This is mainly due to the price factor. There is tremendous scope for developing an internal market for fishery products and it is time that the agencies responsible for the development of the seafood industry address themselves to the development of the domestic market which is necessary for the overall growth of the industry. This should also help the industry to withstand the fluctuations in the export market which is influenced by the demand and supply at the international level. In India, with a vast area and population, it may not be difficult to develop a market for products which are comparatively cheaper and within the purchasing power of the Indian consumer.

Although several schemes and programmes have been taken up by the Government to promote and expand the industry, it still faces many problems. These relate to extreme fluctuations in the availability of raw material; inadequate financial assistance or flow of institutional finance for the establishment and expansion of the industry; lack of suitable vessels and equipments for offshore/deep sea fishing; non-availability of expertise and trained personnel in certain specialised fields of fishing; high cost of operation of fishing vessels; inadequate berthing and landing facilities for boats and other infrastructural facilities; lack of proper shipping facilities and reefer space; frequent hikes in freight charges; inadequate supply of containers and packing material; poor sales promotion in the internal markets and unorganised domestic trade. In the absence of any licensing, there has been a haphazard growth of the industry all over the coastline. A number of processing units have even gone sick due to the non-availability of raw material at economic rates apart from other reasons. A stage has now come that for the healthy development of the industry, it will be desirable to introduce a system of licensing. It is also hoped that the programmes such as import of trawlers, promotion of indigenous construction of trawlers, increased flow of institutional finance, encouragement for joint collaboration, training of personnel, intensive resources survey and research activities, prospect of culture of several commercial species, the various incentives provided by the Government and the increasing interest in the development of internal

market would help the industry to enlarge and expand its activity in the coming years.

Corporations

With a view to promoting integrated fisheries activities, fisheries corporations were established in the country by the end of the Third Five Year Plan. Under the scheme, a Central Fisheries Corporation was established in 1965 at Calcutta. Subsequently, all the maritime States also organised Fisheries Corporations. However, recently the Orissa Fisheries Corporation and the Maharashtra Fisheries Corporation were wound up. The activities of the Corporations include commercial fishing activities such as fishing operations, ice production, processing, storage, marketing and construction and repair of fishing vessels. The financial source of the Corporations consist of shares issued, the loans obtained by the State Governments and the business turn over.

Co-operative sector

With a view to providing assistance to fishermen who are the actual producers, fisheries co-operative system in the country was organised. The system includes Primary Fisheries Co-operative Societies, Fisheries Federations and Apex Societies. Primary Fisheries Co-operative Societies are engaged in a variety of activities such as fishing operations, marketing, providing facilities like short-term and medium-term loans, loans for the house construction and for purchase of fishing implements. The Federations provide credit facilities and assistance to improving the organisational set up of the Primary Co-operatives.

Financial assistance to the industry

Besides the subsidies provided by the Central and State Governments on various items of fishery requisites as indicated elsewhere in this publication, credit facilities for the promotion of the industry are provided by the commercial banking institutions and other lending agencies which have been established by the Central and State Governments. These are not the same in all the States. Some of the important agencies providing credit facilities to the industry are:

- 1) Central Fisheries Co-operatives which buy boats at subsidised prices and sell them on long-term loans to primary fisheries co-operatives and individuals;
- 2) State Co-operative Banks lend to Fisheries Co-operatives and individual members (Kerala, Andhra Pradesh) and to private operators (Gujarat);
- 3) State Finance Corporation (Gujarat) lends mainly to private operators; and
- 4) State Fisheries Department (Andhra Pradesh) purchases boats and allots them on hire purchase contracts to qualified fishermen.

Much of this lending is refinanced directly by the Agricultural Refinance Corporation, a subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India established to support local lending institutions for agricultural projects including fisheries. In Gujarat, the Industrial Development Bank of India also refinances boat loans.

ANCILLARY INDUSTRIES

Boat building yards

Besides the numerous small non-registered boat yards constructing different indigenous crafts and small boats, there are 69 registered wooden boat building yards, 16 shipyards where trawlers are constructed, and 3 yards where FRP boats are constructed. Recognition of 8 additional yards where fishing vessels are proposed to be constructed is under consideration. The country has adequate material, expertise and suitable designs for the construction of wooden and steel vessels up to 30 m long.

Marine diesel engine

Name of the firms and details of make and horse-power of the engines, and overall licenced capacity for manufacture of marine diesel engines in the country are given in Table 19.

Repair and servicing facilities

Service stations and workshops at selected centres such as Veraval, Porbander, Bulsar in Gujarat State; Satpat, Bassein, Bombay, Ratnagiri and Alibag in

Maharashtra; Marmagao in Goa; Karwar, Malpe and Mangalore in Karnataka; Cannanore, Cochin and Quilon in Kerala; Cuddalore, Nagapatinam, Colachel, Rameswaram, Mandapam and Madras in Tamil Nadu; Kakinada and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh are available. Dry dock and slipway facilities for underwater maintenance are available at Bombay, Goa, Cochin, Mandapam, Madras, Visakhapatnam and Calcutta.

Table 19. Details of marine diesel engine makers in India

Name of Firm	Make and Horse-power of the Engine	Total annual licensed capacity
M/s. Premier Automobiles	"Meadows" 44 to 70	3000
M/s. Ruston & Hornsby (India) Limited, Poona	"Ruston" 25 to 75	720
M/s. Kirloskar oil Engines Limited	"Kirloskar" Man/300-600	600
M/s. Kirloskar Commins Limited, Poona	Kirloskar Commins 120/372	N.A.
M/s. Garden Reach Workshop, Marine Engine Division, Ranchi	Man/800-10,000	N.A.
M/s. Lakshmi Narathan Engineering Works Limited	"Lister" 18 to 42	142
M/s. Lynx Machinery Limited, Calcutta	9 to 18	900
M/s. Veegal Engineers Limited, Calcutta	"Veegal" Outboard engines 5	N.A.
M/s. Ashok Leyland Limited, Madras	Leyland 70-130	N.A.

N. A. = Not Available

Fishing gear

Most of the indigenous fishing gears are fabricated and manufactured by fishermen themselves. There are 4 net making plants set up in the public sector with a capacity to manufacturing over 400 tonnes of twine from nylon yarn per year. Besides, there are four small units in the private sector. There are also four licenced firms for producing nylon for nets for the fishing industry.

Others

Various fishing vessel components such as reverse-reduction gear, stern gear, power-take off clutches, auxillary engines and machinery, trawl winches and other equipments such as radio-telephone, cold storage and refrigeration equipments, life saving appliances like life bouys, life rafts, required by the fishing industry are manufactured in the country.