Chairing the meeting at Cochin, Dr PSBR James, Director, CMFRI remarked that survey data played a pivotal role in fisheries research as it formed the basic input for fish stock assessment and that the Institute was paying much stress on this aspect during the Seventh Plan. He felt that the zonal workshops would be a good forum for the scientists and the field staff who are in constant touch with the technological developments for exchange of ideas. In this context he stressed the need for the field staff for involving themselves in the work allotted to them so as to understand the changing trends and shift in fisheries as well as to provide information on the endangered marine animals.

Training Programme in Hatchery Technology for Pearl Oyster

A training programme dealing with various aspects of mass production of pearl oyster in the hatchery system was held at the Tuticorin Research Centre during 27 October to 22 November. Officials of the state fisheries departments and other fisheries organisations participated in the programme.

Biheaded Baby Shark landed

A unique biheaded baby shark measuring 290 mm in length and 170 g in weight was recovered from a mother shark by a gillnet off Miani near Porbandar.

Unusual Landings of Cuttlefish

Trawl nets landed very large quantities of cuttlefish Sepia pharaonis with some Sepia aculeata, Sepiella spp. and Loligo duvaucelli at Kakinada during the first fortnight of December. This was reported by Shri C.V. Seshagiri Rao, Senior Technical Assistant at Kakinada. Usually small quantities of 2-4 kg per boat of squids are landed as incidental catches by mechanised boats operating trawl nets. Sepia pharaonis is the biggest among cuttlefish with conspicuous dark bands on the dorsal side of the body. Females are more muscular and robust than the males. Individual fish measuring up to 275 mm have been recorded in the above landings. The major part of the bycatch was from the trawling grounds of Metapenaeus monoceros at a depth of 50-60 m north east of Kakinada coast. The fresh S. pharaonis were sold at Rs. 13-15 per kg and the fillets at Rs. 45-50 per kg during the above season.

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Seven training courses on scientific farming of prawns and fishes benefiting 80 farm women and 40 farm men were organised. Other training programmes included four courses on livestock management, post-harvest technology of prawn and fish, preparation of fish pickles, duck farming, pond making and sluice fixing. Under the new 20 point programme of the Prime Minister a one-day training on paddy cultivation was held in which 23 farm women participated. Special lectures on nutrition were delivered in connection with the World Food Day celebrations.

A demonstration at KVK on preparation of fish cutlets by Shri K. Balachandran, Scientist, CIFT