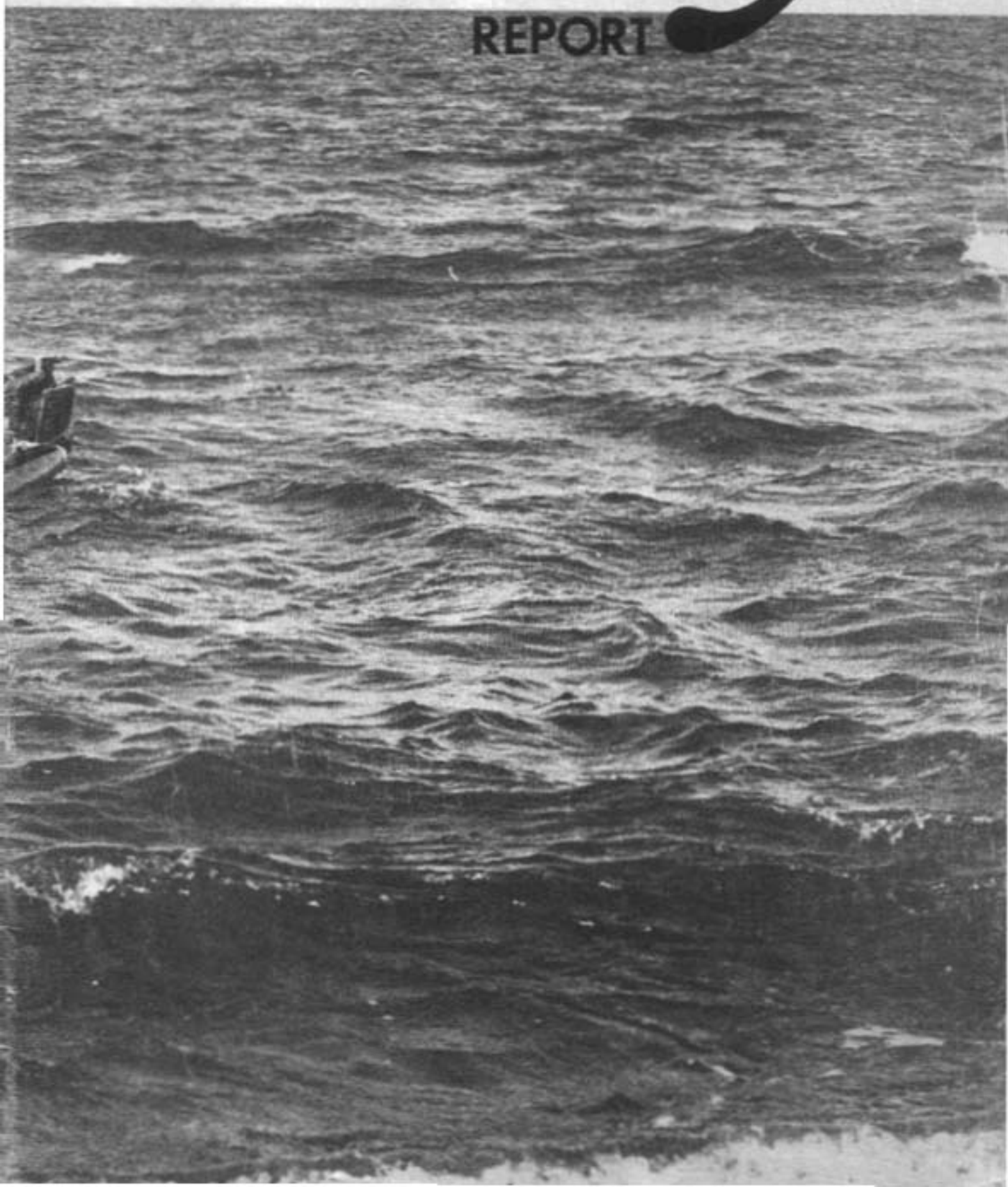


Samudra

REPORT



SAMUDRA...

In Sanskrit, means THE OCEAN...the immense volume of water covering the earth.

This letter brings you news from the people who are interested in the problems and struggles of all those who eke out their livelihood from the ocean...and who want to defend and develop their way of life wherever this is threatened.

SamudrA

REPORT

brings you twice a year news from the members of the INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS, which was born in Trivandrum, India, in November 1986. It also hopes to encourage an exchange of ideas and even debate on various questions and issues relating to the problems involved in the development and progress of fisheries and fishworkers all over the world. We therefore welcome contributions from all who share this concern.

Contact address:
ICSF Secretary
rue Grétry, 65
B1000 Brussels, BELGIUM

(Spanish Edition)
CIAPA
Casilla 14701, Suc 21
Santiago, CHILE.

Editorial

Here, at last, in the Spring of 1988, is the English edition of our little journal—born to link all those who feel concerned for the fate of fishworkers round the world: small fishermen, fish processors and vendors, millions of men and women who so often must struggle to subsist but whose work is so important for Mankind.

We are not a mega-size conglomerate; we are simply a network of supporters—presently located in eighteen countries.

You will find that this first edition of SAMUDRA REPORT in bias towards India—where, on Kerala's sun-drenched beaches, our organization was born. But rest assured that in our next edition, the focus will be on Africa and in the issue after that, on Latin-America...

So to all our friends, near and far, I send you greetings and good catch!

Pierre Gillet
15.03.1988

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Viewpoint

by John Kurien, Trivandrum
(section titles by the Editor)

There is a well-known saying that it takes the water of many rivers to make a mighty ocean—a *samudra*.

And so it is with our Collective.

It has taken—and will continue to take— many, many numerous small initiatives by people all over the world before the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) becomes a force to be reckoned with in the realm of world fisheries.

Looking back, particularly over the last four years, I have no doubts about our ability to achieve this goal.

From springs...

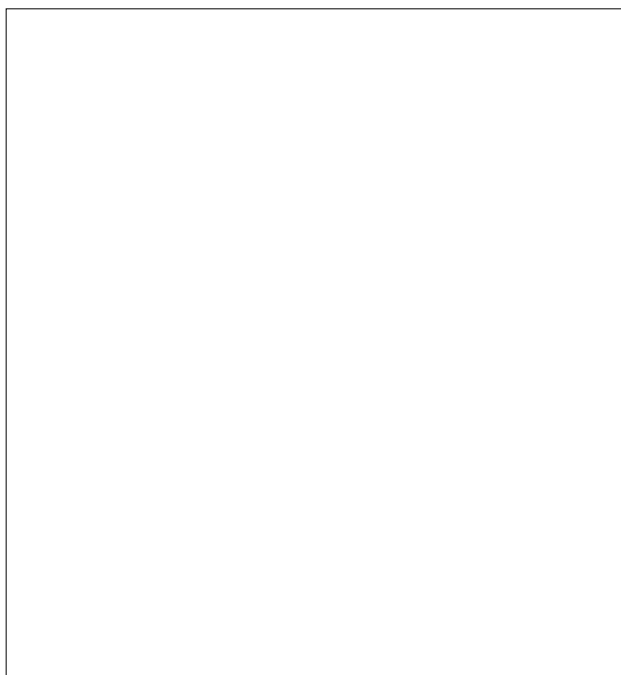
I've often been asked how the initiatives that led to the formation of the ICSF all started. One answer is that the "rivers" have existed for ages, but have all flowed at their own pace and in their own direction without influencing one another. Some rivers were small and slow; some large and swift. In certain parts of the world the rivers had already flowed into small "regional seas". But it was when the idea of holding an International Conference of Fishworkers and their Supporters (ICFWS) was first initiated that the possibility of merging all the "rivers" and "regional seas" into a mighty *samudra* became a dream capable of fulfillment.

A planning meeting—held in Hong Kong in January 1984 to announce officially our intention of organising the ICFWS—was next step towards ensuring that as many "rivers" as possible would flow into a single ocean.

To rivers...

In July 1983, prompted by a letter from a person whose heart was with the fishworkers but whose feet were directed by international policy makers, I wrote to seventy-five people round the world who sailed these "rivers" and "regional seas". In that letter, I suggested the idea of the ICFWS. In two months I received fifty-seven lengthy replies— all but one enthusiastic about the idea and pledging support.

A planning meeting—held in Hongkong in January 1984 to announce officially our intention of organizing the



ICSFWS—was the next step towards ensuring that as many "rivers" as possible would flow into a single ocean.

...and confluents.

By June 1984 many more rivers" round the world who had been represented at Hong Kong, pledged their support in helping form the "ocean". All of this was done on the basis of a great deal mutual trust with only circular letters and telex messages evidence of our earnest. Two goals inspired us all to work together to a common end: a fairer deal for the men and women engaged in small-scale fisheries and greater participation by them in the issues affecting their lives; and a sustainable future for fishery resources.

Minor differences of opinion as to how these objectives should be achieved proved no obstacle to wholehearted and enthusiastic collaboration.

A surprising exhibition

The best proof of the success of this approach was to be seen the exhibition organized at the ICFWS conference entitled "*The life, work and struggles of the Fish workers*".

From the coordinating office of the ICFWS in the little coastal town of Trivandrum in Southern India a poster proposing this exhibition was mailed to the fishworkers' organizations and the NGO's planning to attend the ICFWS. With no centralized planning, the success of the exhibition depended entirely on the exhibits brought home by the participants. The response was overwhelming models of fishing craft and tackle, posters, paper cuttings, slick working clothes, photographs and pictures of fish. The display all these exhibits around the foyers of the conference hall was electrifying and gave the whole of the ICFWS a special atmosphere.

Beaches on the move...

Post-ICFWS collaboration between fishworker groups has been on the increase. So, too, has the interaction and assistance given them by supporters.

News about this close collaboration between supporters' and fishworkers' organizations flooded in from Columbia, France, Senegal, India, Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines—and many other countries. Very few of these contributions could claim to be national", but the qualitative nature of the links they helped establish gave them special significance. In some cases fishworkers and supporters worked together to achieve technology transfer; in some instances, to strengthen organizational initiatives; on other occasions to discuss and implement programmes for socio-economic welfare. The perceptible increase in such types of cooperation and the manner in which they were being appreciated by fishworkers' organizations lay at the very heart of the Collective concept.

A new form of consultation...

Following a letter I wrote in mid-1986, many of our supporters round the world—generally social and physical scientists and social organizers—endorsed the overall idea of the need to work together more closely so that their activity on behalf of fishworkers in their respective countries could be given a broader dimension. Such combined effort was also seen as an effective means of creating greater solidarity across such barriers as culture, language and national territory. The idea was also endorsed by many fishworkers' organizations and NGO's working closely with fishworkers.

The launching...

The November 1986 meeting in Trivandrum of supporters from 18 countries hosted jointly by a research institute (Centre for Development Studies) and a fishermen's organization (South Indian Federation of Fishermen's Societies) formally endorsed the idea of the Collective. The joint resolution basically sanctioned the creation of the "ocean" —the *samudra*. But creating an ocean does not mean that the "rivers" will cease to exist. On the contrary their role is greatly enhanced, continuing to pour in the fresh water of ideas, to be replenished in turn from the ocean through the rainfall of inspiration.

The Cycle of mutual dependence that binds "rivers" and ocean" together must be greatly strengthened if the Collective is to evolve into a meaningful initiative for the fishworkers and their supporters.

Our task...

The very name "Collective" and the nature of its organization emphasize the international dimensions of a forum built on the strength of its regional/national links.

Every member of the Collective has pledged a small portion of her or his time to further its objectives. The Action Team which is to breathe life into this enterprise and provide it with leadership must imitate the waves of the samudra—rise to take the initiative and act, and then, when the task is accomplished, subside to give rise to a new wave.



The task the Action Team and its members address is unique and challenging. Let us all devote our energies towards ensuring that our aspirations for the Collective will soon come to fruition.

In total commitment
John Kurien, TRIVANDRUM

BIBLIOGRAPHY

If you are interested in indigenous fisheries and the people working in them, the complete report of the Trivandrum Workshop (held in November 1986) provides a rich source of information on a wide range of issues, including the basic options confronting the Collective, its programmes and women's views on fisheries.

ORDER YOUR COPY OF

TOWARDS AN INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS

**from: ICSF Secretariat rue Gretry 65,
Brussels B-1000**
*Reports signed by Nenita Cura and John Garbutt
Published in 60 pages by DA GA, Hongkong. Price
\$US 5.*

Round-up...

Stock management and regulations in Kerala

or THE SMALL FISHERMAN AGAINST THE TRAWLERS

Ever since 1976, the small-scale fishworkers of Tamil Nadu (South East India) have staged spontaneous and violent demonstrations against the 32-foot trawlers which have, with impunity, been destroying coastal resources. Since that time, Southern India has witnessed a series of uprisings in its coastal regions. The Government has responded by setting up various committees to look into the problem—to no avail. In 1978, following the formation of the National Fishermen's Forum, the demand was made for Marine Fishing Regulations. As a result of this the Central Government directed the State Governments to enact legislation to control marine fishing.

In 1981, Kerala State enacted its "Marine Fishing Act", under which the state is authorized to conserve fish resources, protect the interests of fisherfolk and direct fishing initiatives. The Act imposes a ban on purse-seiners fishing within 22 kilometres of the coast and on trawlers and mechanized boats within 10 kilometres, and prohibits operations between sunset to sunrise. Violations are punishable by fines of up to 50,000 rupees and subsequent violations by the impounding of boats. To help enforce the Act, the police have been given three speed boats.

The enactment of the law can be seen as a direct result of the sustained action taken over a number of years by small-scale fishworkers. In Cochin, for example—a major fishing port where all the purse-seiners and some 500 trawlers operate—small-scale fishworkers adopted outboard engines in 1986, enabling them to put up a stronger fight which culminated in a blockade of the entire harbour on September 11, 1987.

This action was not pursued universally by the small-scale fishworkers: over the period 1978 to 1986, some fishworkers actually supported the purse-seiners as they derived some benefit from them. But collective action finally resulted in the Act being passed and a meeting being called by the District Collector to which all parties concerned—the owners of the purse-seiners and trawlers, the police and the small-scale fishworkers were invited to work out a way of implementing it.

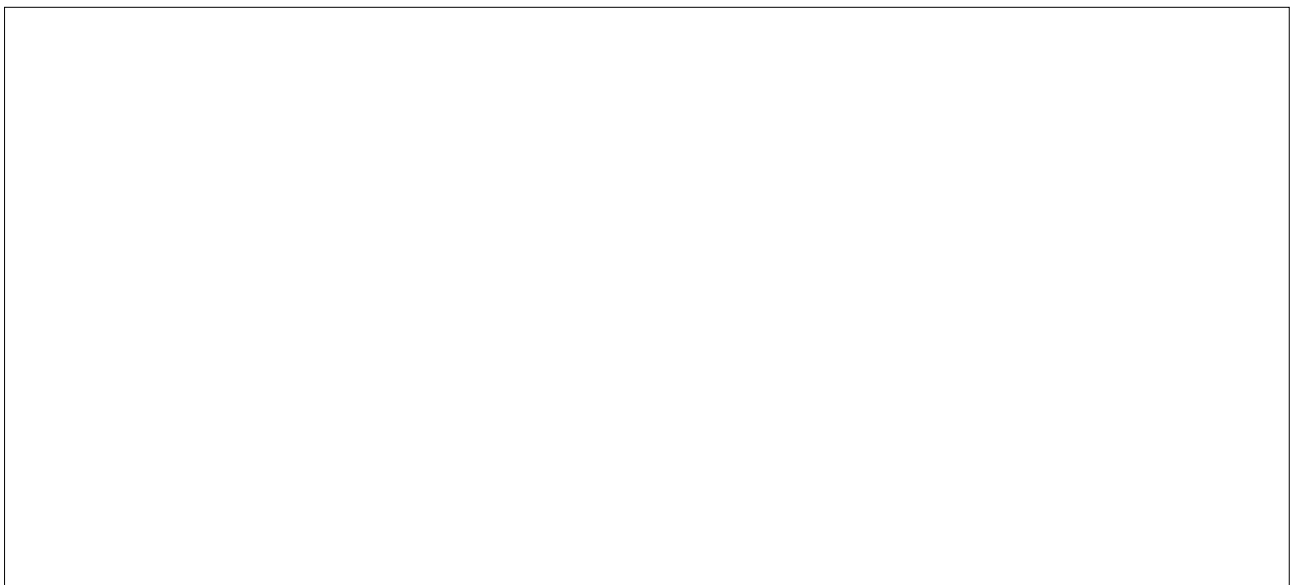
The District Collector decided that the three speed boats which had been allocated should monitor any possible violation of the law, and another—stationed at the mouth of the harbour—should monitor infringements of the Act relating to night-fishing (mechanized boats are not permitted to leave the harbour before 4am and must return by 9pm).

The entire process was not an easy one: many complaints were lodged by the mechanized boats against the small fishworkers, which were acted upon by the police; but at the same time, the police and fishery officials were obliged to enforce the law by catching vessels violating its regulations.

CONCLUSION

The lesson to be learned from this example is that unless the small-scale fishworkers put up a sustained fight, no law will be enacted or implemented.

Thomas Kocherry
President
National Fishermen Forum
Cochin - INDIA





Good news?

A STATE LEVEL SEMINAR FINALLY RECOGNIZES THAT THE FISHERIES INDUSTRY IS IN CRISIS

Kerala, INDIA

Until 1985, Kerala was unquestionably the biggest fish producer among India's coastal states. It no longer is today—and statistics show falls in production of 36% for demersal fish and 61% for that equally valuable harvest, shrimps*. During the last ten years, fishermen have protested at this drop in catches, but officialdom did not feel that the situation warranted concern. But this is now no longer the case. Today, scientists, administrators and unions jointly face the sad reality—and the near disaster occasioned by the modernisation of fisheries initiated by the Indo-Norwegian project which was so brilliantly signalled by the Indian Government as a "blue revolution.

At a seminar staged over two days in July 1987 a number of leading scientists, local government delegates and union representatives sat down to review the situation. The seminar drew attention to the overfishing of demersal fish and the blunders perpetrated through mechanization and profit-driven concentration on fishing for shrimp in shallow waters. Much was said about the problems of stock control, fishing regulations, aquaculture and the role women played in the industry.

The minister responsible for fishing matters promised a "thorough review' of the seminar's conclusions... could this be seen as a ray of hope for the fisheries?

REPORTS

Nalini reports on her recent tour of fisheries In France.

The region that James Smith and I visited in France was the Bigoudin area of Brittany. There lives a breed of fisherfolk who, as Henri Manis observes, are strong, warm-blooded characters with unsurpassed pride and a great sense of affection—qualities, which they share in common with their peers in India. Henri is a 'senior' priest and former dockworker at the fishing port. He's a lively man with a strong sense of humour who gets on well with people. He took us around with an air of great confidence, anxious less we miss anything important, eager that we make contact with people and sample delicious Breton sea-food.

We spent a whole day with Louis Leroux, the former president of the Guilvinec Fishermen's Committee, and an active unionist. He spent his entire working life on a 38' trawler, where he has now been succeeded by his son. These are the 'small fishermen', men who have inherited a long seafaring tradition and who make up a distinct community similar to fishing communities in India.

The fishing unit comprises the 'Patron' (owner-skipper) and five to eight workers. This number has fallen from the fifteen of 25 years ago in order to make operations commercially viable. Earnings are based on a share system: 50% goes to the boat and tackle, and 50% goes to the crew, after deductions for expenses.

Fishing activity has been regulated and the working day in this sector is restricted to eight hours. Catches include all types of fish, but mostly prawns. The marketing of fish is carried out much as it is in India, but in a better organized fashion. The fish is auctioned to licensed buyers of different size—some quite big, others small—who in turn wholesale it to the retailers who distribute it to the local markets. Most of the fish landed goes for local consumption.

Fishing Ports

The fishing ports in this sector are Loctudy, Lesconil. St. Guenole and Guilvinec. These small fishermen sell their catches through the marketing federation in auction style. If prices crash to the floor, the fish is withdrawn from the market and sold to the processing cooperative which is owned by the federation. This cooperative is equipped to deal with surplus stocks, to freeze them, to send them to distant markets in refrigerated trucks or to turn them into fish meal. Thanks to Minitel, the computerized telephone information service, sales prices on other markets can easily be determined and sound decisions taken. A service charge of 5% is levied,

Organizations

The fishworkers also have their own local Fishery Councils, made up of the four trade unions (CFDT, COT, CFTC and autonomous), which have both workers and 'patrons' as

members. The Fishery Councils also embrace the port authorities, fish vendors and processors. All ports have their committees, and contain around fifteen representatives of the fishermen, and fifteen for the vendors and port workers. The committees sprang up after the Second World War to protect the industry which was then under threat. As they are official their boards, the committees have commissioned a wide range of studies related to fishing and have set up regulations,

It was interesting to see how these organizations have taken stock of both economic problems and social issues, to the extent that they have even published an English-Spanish dictionary to enable fishermen to communicate by radio telephone with foreign fishing boats. I was quite surprised to hear Louis explain that despite this very organized approach and the fishermen's desire to work closely with 'research boffins', the latter's knowledge of the subject matter was extremely limited and of little benefit to the fishworkers. How very similar to the situation in India'

A European view

We were also able to visit Concarneau, the base for the large French industrial tuna fishing fleet, which operates in Mauritian waters, in the Indian Ocean and even as far as Indonesia. In the evening, we had a very lively discussion with the fishermen and their wives. I explained briefly the problems of the Indian fisherfolk, and how there were a number of clear similarities with the situation in France. Although some of our problems relating to rights of access to fishing waters, to credit facilities and to marketing—including the position of the Indian woman—struck them as some what 'feudal', a few of them were able to see parallels with their own past, but the vast majority had completely forgotten about their own history!

James and I then told them about the creation of the Collective and asked them what role they thought they might play in it. Although nothing very specific emerged, it was plain to see that there was a need for a common European forum where fishworkers and their supporters could meet, discuss problems and work out ways of solving them. This initiative could certainly help foster close cooperation between fisherfolk on a North-South axis, so vital for the protection of the oceans' ecosystems. James and his colleagues in the Maritime Working Group (*GroupeMer*) of the Catholic Committee against Hunger and for Development (CCFD) in Paris hope to further this idea, and would warmly welcome approaches at the address below from any other Europeans interested in the venture.

Nalini

James SMITH/Simon KERZERHO
CCFD—4 rue Jean Lautier,
Paris 75001— FRANCE

Chile

After their 10th National Small Fishermen Conference in 1986, the fishermen of Chile set up their new organization — CONAPACH. At the beginning of 1988, they organized a massive educational programme in which scientists will work

closely with fishermen to better equip them to protect their industry and prove their skills (navigation, fish processing, etc). An initiative well worth following up!

Senegal

In October 1987, the International Collective organized various meetings with workers in the fisheries field.

A meeting of scientists from five West African countries was also held, on which we shall be publishing reports in the next issue of *Samudra Report*.

Upon his return from Senegal, a Breton fisherman who had visited his Senegalese colleagues gave the following statement to a French newspaper: "I have seen some extremely efficient Senegalese fishermen: what they lack is organization. If we had not protected and organized ourselves (30 years ago) today's small (Breton) fisherman would simply have ceased to exist."

Sri Lanka

(from our local correspondent)

The problem of trawlers has once again arisen. Last year, the Fisheries Ministry banned trawling; but instead of the promised law which was to have been introduced in Parliament, a Public Enquiry Commission has been set up—very likely under pressure from the trawler owners. Fishermen are now being 'invited' to testify to the Commission, and the majority are refusing to do so on the grounds that they have held legitimate title to fishing rights in their waters for generations, and not the Government.

Brazil

(from CPP, Recife)

The Brazilian State Fishing Development Board (SUDEPE) estimates that although 95% of the 600,000 people engaged in fishing are small fisherfolk (*pescadores artesanais*), their interests are totally ignored at State planning levels. Even nylon cord — the principal element in nets— is taxed as a luxury item, and the combined effects of pollution and industrial fishing have resulted in their becoming one of the poorest groups in the working class.

The rapid expansion of heavy industry, especially the development of programmes to produce 'alcohol fuel' from sugar cane has resulted in a burgeoning of chemical plants up and down the country. These distilleries, like the paper factories, pump vast quantities of effluent into the lakes, rivers and coastal waterways with scant regard for pollution control. Fish and shellfish have completely disappeared in a number of areas, or have become unfit for human consumption. Dozens of valleys and estuaries have become contaminated, and in Sao Luis to the north a major aluminium plant has not only exterminated all fish life, but ruined the ecology of an entire valley.

Brazilian fisherfolk are also faced with an off-shore fishing fleet geared exclusively to export which has been responsible for the exhaustion of fish stocks in a number of places. Even though small-scale fishworkers account for 50% of the country's total catch, in 1985 they only received 12% of available State aid, which favours exporters in order to help re-

pay foreign debt. As in many other areas of the world, it is estimated that the large shrimp boats throw away five out of every six tons of catch, landing only the prawns so prized for export.

And in the State of Maranhao, responsible for 40% of the total fish production of the nine northern states, the investment in export fisheries has resulted in sharply increased local fish prices, making it increasingly difficult for the poor to buy fish.

The same picture emerges as in Asia: the majority of poor fishworkers lack the most basic equipment and face numerous difficulties if they try to avail themselves of Government assistance.

NDLR - We will be covering this subject in greater detail in a future issue, together with a report from Mathany Saldanha from Goa who recently visited Brazilian fishworkers.

Philippines

Two Asian organizations have jointly launched an appeal in support of the 20,000 fishermen and their families working in Calancan Bay, on Marinduque Island in the Philippines—once famous for the quality of its fish and the beauty of its coral.

Since 1964, the mining company Canadian Marcopper, co-owned by ex-President Marcos and a Canadian firm, set up a plant on the island to mine copper. Since 1975, the plant has been processing nine million tons of concentrate a year, discharging waste at the rate of 750,000 cubic metres a month directly into the sea, blocking the Bay up to a distance of five kilometres from the shore. The fishermen fear that the last remaining portion of their fishing ground, the wide rock reef, will soon be covered by waste—and indeed, the 1983 Environmental Monitoring Report showed that waste had reached beyond the reef just outside the Bay, and that 38 square kilometres out of the Bay's total 50 had been encroached upon.

A 1981 decision by the National Commission for Pollution Control banning dumping in the sea was overruled by President Marcos, and, today, 20,000 fishermen are urging the Government to act. Two ecology action groups—Linked Tao-Kalikasan in the Philippines and Asia Pacific People's Environment Network (APPEN)—are appealing for help to save Calancan Bay and its fishermen.

To help the fishermen or to receive more details, write to:

APPEN NETWORK

*c/o Sahabat Alam Malaysia, APPEN Coordinator,
37, Lorong Birch, 10250 Penang, West Malaysia.*

or the campaign coordinator

*Sr Ma Alda Veasquez, Lingkod-Tao-Kalikasan,
PO Box 3153, Manila, PHILIPPINES*

ONGOING STUDY 1

FISHWORKERS' STATUS—AN ICSF PROJECT

We have volumes of statistics on fish—but very little on fishermen. This well known fact prompted the ICSF to begin work on a comprehensive study. We reproduce below extracts from a brief report dated September 1987, signed by John Kurien, the coordinator of the project

The study on the 'Status of the Fishworker' was mandated by our formation meeting in November 1986. It was to be a secondary data collection exercise and also a test of our ability as members of the Collective to undertake a collaborative project while remaining in our respective places of work.

The outline for the study and the format were prepared and posted to members in February 1987. By 31 August 1987 I had received replies from 30 countries and two provinces within two countries. The most encouraging was from Latin America.

Objectives of the project

The socio-economic, labour and employment status of fishworkers is never static. It is either improving or getting worse. If we agree with this proposition, then we must agree that there is no 'final' report which we can produce—there is a need for constant updating.

Details of the project work

Who are the fishworkers?

Our first job is to define who are fishworkers. Are we only talking about small-scale manual sea-fishermen? Do we include in our definition the crew members on large trawlers? Will the women workers in the fish processing plants and the men involved in full-time aquaculture operations be considered?

The best answer is to go by the Rome Conference (ICFWS) definition. 'Fishworkers—men, women and children engaged as small fishers, crew members, processing workers and sellers.' By small fishers' is meant manual sea-fishermen, inland fishermen and those involved in aquaculture.

So our analysis is primarily about the *fishworkers* and NOT about the total population dependent upon fish-related activities. So only the *workers*; those who labour, whether they are men, women or children, will be the subject of our project.

Activity coverage

Having defined our fishworker, we must now consider the scope of our enquiry: our report should include fishworkers in the three main economic activities of the fisheries economy. They are:

1. HARVESTING (from the sea, inland waters, rivers and aquaculture);
2. HANDLING AND PROCESSING (i.e. all post-harvest activity);
3. MARKETING (the physical act of distributing fish).

In most countries we find that in each of these activities there will be more than one category of fishworker.

Area coverage

We must cover a whole country. However, in large countries it is often not possible to make just one report for the whole country. In such circumstances we should make a report for each homogeneous province or area of the country.

Items to be included in the Report

This is, of course, the most important part. It is very difficult to give a full and proper listing of items to be included. To overcome this, we have devised a tabular grid for guidance. Since our initial objective is to create a rough but comprehensive picture of the status of fishworkers country by country, the format will suffice for our work in 1988. Refinements can follow in 1988! The following page gives the items and codes to be used to fill in the cells on this tabular grid.

How to fill in the Tabular Format

The first thing to do is make a full and accurate listing of all the categories of fishworkers in each of the three activities mentioned above, avoiding as far as possible any overlapping. Now write out these categories in the cells numbered '1' to '10' at the top of the columns in the grid.

For each category now fill up the cells down the column with the appropriate information (using the codes indicated)—the bulk of the work! Of course, for those of you from countries with numerous fishworkers and large inter-provincial variations (e.g. the Philippines and Brazil) it may be necessary to fill in many of the forms—one for each province and (if possible) one for the whole country. That's no easy task!

When filling it in, it is always a good idea to indicate the sources of your data, particularly for figures relating to population.

There's one more thing to do. Write a short note about the fishworkers in your country based on the information you have entered on the grid.

For your assistance a similar form—filled up for Kerala State, India—can be sent to you so that you have an idea of how your completed form should look. (However, please note that the form being used for our present study is a bit different from the enclosed example).

On adding more items

On the enclosed form, there's only provision for 10 categories of fishworkers (columns) and there are only 21 items of information required (rows). Should you want to add more, feel free to extend it.

Also, if you have written—or come across—any good article or case studies of fishworkers in your country/region, please send a copy of the same to the project coordinator.

Project coordinator

Please address all your communications about this project to John Kurien at the address below. (A copy of the correspondence can also be sent to the ICSF office if you wish).

Good luck with your study. Please send your results direct to:

*John Kurien CDS
Ulloor Trivandrum 695011, INDIA.*

or to the Secretariat:

*rue Gretry 65,
1000 Brussels, BELGIUM*

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Harvesting			Handling and processing			Marketing		
A. Number of persons working in this group	28500	1500	80000	190	3000	1600	168	130	168
B. Sexes involved Primarily/Only men (M); women (W); both (B)	M	M	M	B	B	B	B	B	B
C. Age structure Below 15 (A); 15-20 (B); 20-50 (C); above 50 (D)	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
D. Nature of occupation Main (M); secondary/part time (S)	S	S	S	M	S	S	M	S	M
E. Social Status Compared to other workers: High (H); low (L); same (S)	L	L	L	S	L	L	S	L	S
F. Level of literacy Compared to other workers: High (H); low (L); same (S)	L	L	L	S	L	L	S	L	S
G. Level of formal education Compared to other workers: High (H); low (L); same (S)									
H. Religion Animist (A); Buddhist (B); Christian-Catholic (CC); Christian-Protestant (CP); Hindu (H); Moslem (M); Others (O)	CC	CC	CC	CC	CC	CC	CC	CC	CC
I. Estimation of portion of year employed (in days)	220	260	210	360	100	220	360	150	360
J. Degree of seasonality of employment High (H); Low (L); Related to availability of fish (FS); Weather conditions (WE); others (O)	H WS WE	H WS WE	H WS WE	L FS	H FS	L O	L FS	H FS	L FS
K. Employment status Self-employed (SE); Wage labourer (WL); Family labour (FL); income share (SI)	FL SE	FL SE	FL SE	WL	SE IS	SE FL	WL	FL SE	WL
L. Nature of payment of emoluments Piece rate (PR); Daily wage (DW); Salary (S); Share of Net income (SI)	PR SI	PR SI	PR SI	S	PR SI	PR SI	S	PR SI	S
M. Per capita daily income Give in local currency the income range	\$ US 8-10	\$ US 15-20	\$ US 3-4	\$ US 3-4	\$ US 5	\$ US 3-4	\$ US 3-4	\$ US 3-5	\$ US 4-6
N. Extent of child labour involved High (H); Low (L); Engaged as: Family Labour (FL); Wage labour (WL)	L FL	L FL	H FL	L FL	H FL	H FL	L FL	H FL	L FL
O. Extent immigrant labour involved From within the province/country (P/C) From outside the province/country (O)	L P/C	L P/C	L P/C	L P/C	L P/C	L P/C	L P/C	L P/C	L P/C
P. Extent to which they emigrate Substantial (S); moderate (M); little (L) Within country (WC); to other countries (OC)	L WC	L WC	L WC	L WC	L WC	L WC	L WC	L WC	L WC
Q. Level of accident risk High (H); Low (L)	H	H	H	L	L	L	L	L	L
R. Existence of minimum wage legislation Yes or no	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
S. Existence of welfare legislation Yes or no	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
T. Access to social security & welfare provided by employees Yes or no				Yes			Yes		Yes
Provided by State (Yes or No)	No	No	No		No	No		No	
U. Level of association with Coo-operative movement	W	W	W	NE	W	W	NE	W	NE
Trade union movement	NE								
Voluntary agencies Strong (S); moderate (M); weak (W); non-existent (NE)	W	W	W	W	W	NE	S	W	S

1: Artisanal Fishermen working on non-mechanized and motorized craft in coastal waters 2: Fishermen working on mechanized boats in coastal waters
3: Artisanal fishermen working on non-mechanized craft in inland waters 4: Workers at fish landing centres involved in unloading, sorting and icing
5: Workers involved in traditional methods of fish curing and drying 6: Workers involved in prawn peeling sheds 7: Workers in fish processing firms
8: Workers involved in the marketing of fish within the community 9: Workers involved in marketing activities in the country. *Compiled by Francisco Gutierrez B.*

ONGOING STUDY 2

TRENDS IN EXTERNAL AID AND INVESTMENT FLOWS TO THE FISHERIES SECTORS OF THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES

One of the important tasks of the ICSF is to monitor the impact of development programmes on the living and working conditions of fishworkers. This is a formidable task, in which the ICSF Secretariat needs the assistance of the regional networks of supporters and fishworkers' organizations as well as that committed scientists and administrators with access to the required information.

Impact monitoring is the first step in building up an early warning system through which the ICSF attempts to prevent the implementation of development programmes which are contrary to the interests of fishworkers and the public at large. To achieve this aim, the Secretariat needs up-to-date information on-planned development programmes so that in the event of projects likely to prove damaging, opposition can be organized at local and national as well as international levels

IN FAO

For a couple of years the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been publishing a Survey of External Assistance to the Fisheries Sector in Developing Countries (1). This survey presents consolidated data which shows the amounts and types of external assistance given by major donors, and receiving regions. According to this information external assistance to fisheries has more than doubled in the period 1974-1984 from \$US228.8 million to \$US482.4 million (in constant \$US terms). About 80% of the assistance in 1984 consisted of capital aid (vessels, harbours, infrastructure, etc), while the rest has been spent on technical assistance (training, research, etc.).

THE WORLD BANK

The World Bank (WB) and regional development banks (Asian, African and Inter-American Development Banks) are—with 42% — the main investors in fisheries, followed by bilateral donors (38%).

The UN system, including FAO, account for about 7% — consisting mostly of technical assistance. FAO's role in investments is, however, much stronger than indicated by this figure. Many of the investment projects undertaken by the World Bank and regional development banks are prepared

with the assistance of the FAO Investment Centre which is a relatively independent unit within FAO. Insiders say that the coordination between the technical units of FAO and the Investment Centre is very poor. The latter sees itself more as an extension of the WB (where the US has the main say) than of FAO (where Third World countries have the majority vote—though not the funds!).

..and the EEC

In recent years, the European Economic Community (EEC) has greatly increased its involvement in the fisheries of developing countries and accounted in 1984 for 7% of all assistance, up from less than 1% in 1979. Considering that a large part of bilateral assistance is also provided by EEC countries, the EEC is among the most influential external investors in the fisheries of Third World countries, especially in Africa where the bulk of the presently under-exploited fishery resources are located. This increasing interest on the part of the EEC is not surprising as with the inclusion of Spain and Portugal the EEC has to accommodate a vastly expanded fleet of fishing vessels, which is too large for the fishery resources within EEC waters. In the words of an EEC representative: *"Whether fishing survives as an occupation for the Community's fishermen will now depend on the conclusion of fisheries agreements with Third World countries."*

Most of the countries with under-exploited resources are indeed in the Third World, especially North and West Africa.

So-called development assistance is extremely handy when it comes to preparing the groundwork for the conclusion of joint-venture agreements: contacts are established; information on location and abundance of profitable resources is being collected and key decision-makers are financially and ideologically prepared to approve so-called 'mutually' beneficial deals. The ones who lose out on the deal are the thousands of artisanal fishing families who have no voice and who—with some development assistance provided here and there—are being made to believe that they are also benefiting.

In those countries where the carrot is not working, the EEC has the stick to hand: denial of access to the resources is met with the denial of access to EEC markets. In this man-

ner, the EEC has designed an effective system to safeguard the interests of EEC fisheries in the name of development aid.

US AND RUSSIAN INTERESTS

A new actor has recently appeared on the fishery scene of West Africa, namely the United States. So far, US involvement is confined to the provision of minor financial support, but major development programmes are under consideration for implementation by USAID. Contrary to the EEC's business interests. US involvement is stimulated by geo-strategical considerations. The US is highly annoyed by the large presence of fishing fleets from the USSR and from other East European countries off the West African coast and would like to see the influence of the East greatly reduced in this region — including the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola.

The role of the fishing fleets from the Eastern bloc in West Africa is quite damaging to the local fishing fleets—especially the USSR's, which has won a name for itself by indiscriminately wiping out fishery resources and infringing local laws such as the ban on operating in inshore waters to protect artisanal fisheries. The fleets are also dumping fish on the local markets (to gain foreign exchange) thereby lowering fish prices to such a level that the local artisanal fishermen have difficulties making ends meet.

The countries from the Eastern bloc are basically following the same system as those from the West in acquiring access agreements with developing countries such as outright pay-offs to corrupt government officials and the provision of capital and technical assistance. The only difference seems to be that the East is even less interested in assisting artisanal fishermen than the West.



CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

Coming back to the FAO review, it does not provide much information on the impact of external assistance. Such impact will depend first and foremost on the kind of investments undertaken in the fishery sector. Are they geared towards the needs of fish workers or are they undertaken to generate maximum profit for a few? Do such investments contribute to the ecologically sound utilization of a fragile renewable resource *or are* they accelerating the destruction of the coastal and marine eco-system? Are such investments contributing to satisfy the nutritional needs of the under- or malnourished sections of the population or are they enhancing the flow of food from the needy to the affluent? These are some of the questions which need to be answered when assessing the impact of national and externally supported investment programmes on the fishery sector.

Many of us are aware that a great number of development programmes did more harm than good for the fishworkers in general and for small-scale rural fishing families in particular.

External assistance and national development schemes have concentrated on the introduction of capital intensive fishing technologies geared towards export production. Support to artisanal fishing communities consisted more often of lip-service than of allocation of sufficient financial, technical and manpower resources.

MORE RECENTLY

After FAO's 1984 World Fisheries Conference there was some hope that more resources would be provided for artisanal and small-scale fisheries. Preliminary data indicate that this hope has been frustrated — lip-service continues to prevail. Concessionary aid to fisheries in developing countries is declining and with it assistance to small-scale fisheries. The bulk of external assistance is still going into large-scale fisheries, which employ not more than one tenth of all fishermen world-wide.

The millions of small-scale fishermen receive less than one-fifth (about \$US 100 million) of all assistance. With an estimated number of about 15 million small-scale fishermen and at least 60 million family members, external assistance per capita works out to just above 1 \$US. This is very little, but certainly a highly profitable investment for the suppliers of fishing gear, engines, vessels, etc. from the industrialised countries.

THE JAPANESE VIEWPOINT

It's hardly surprising to read the following declaration of aims for technical assistance from the department responsible for Japanese Overseas Fisheries Development Cooperation:

- to develop the unexploited fishery resources of developing countries for Japanese utilization through economic cooperation;
- to facilitate fishing agreements favourable to Japan by offering developing countries technical assistance for the development of their fisheries;
- to allocate governmental technical assistance to developing countries so as to facilitate Japanese Private sector investments.

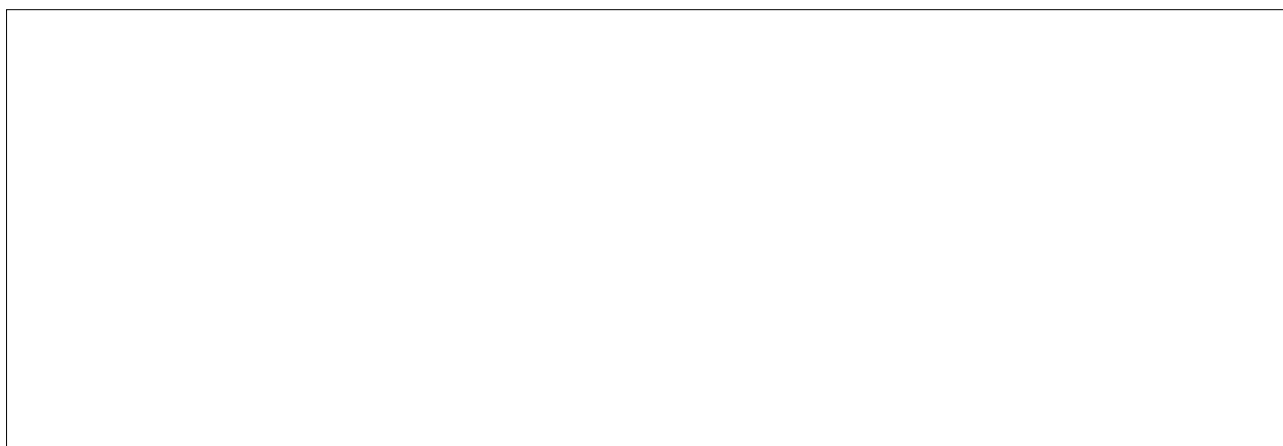
DEAR SHRIMPS...

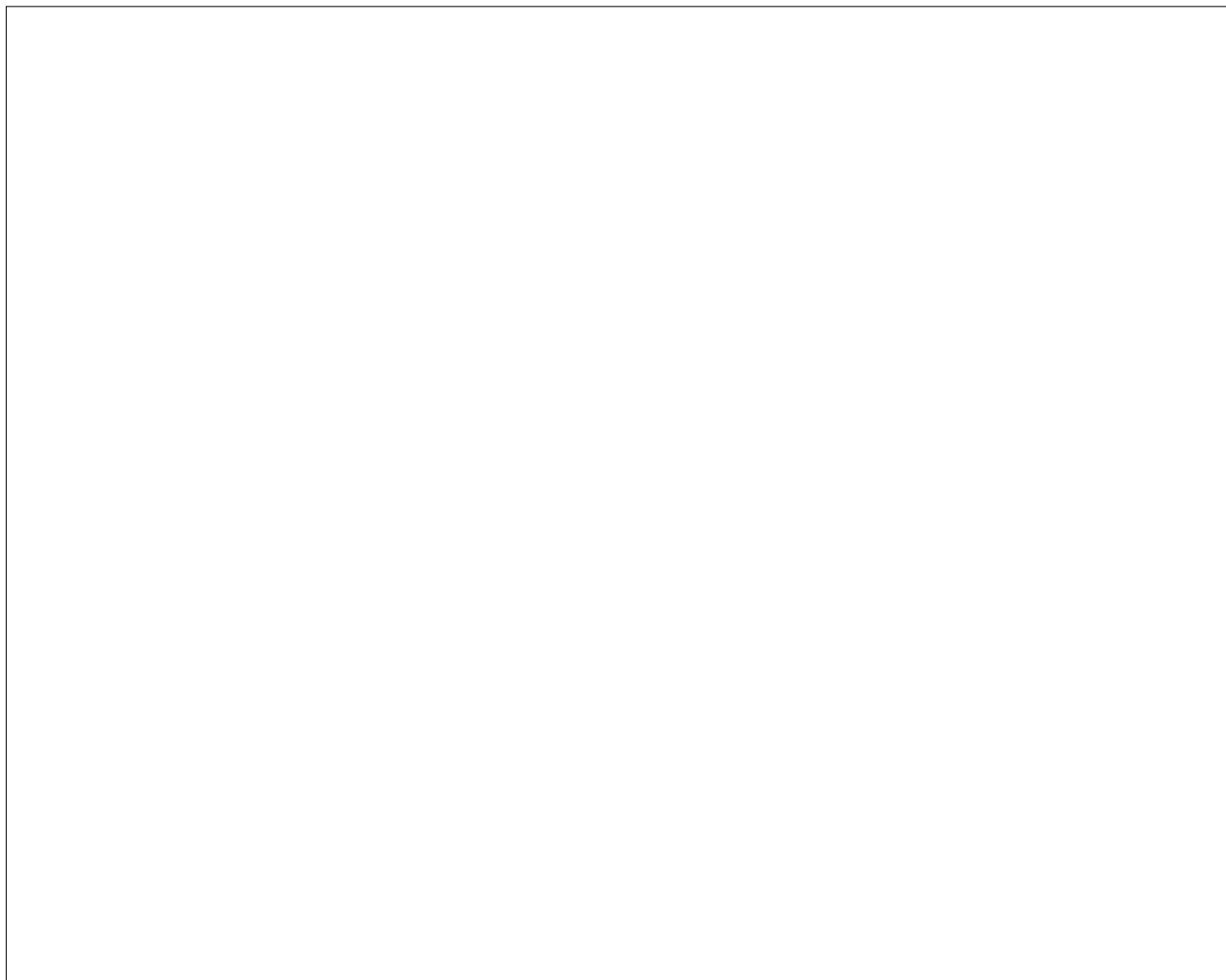
The only major change observed in investment patterns is that more money is being invested in aquaculture, and shrimp culture in particular. However, this new emphasis is a result of old, familiar reasons: earning of foreign exchange and profits for the few.

Shrimps are turning out to be the 'cattle of the sea'. They are highly inefficient converters of protein requiring large amounts of feed in intensive forms of farming. So-called trash-fish, which in many instances is or could be used for direct human consumption, is one of the main ingredients in the preparation of such feed. Again, the poorest consumers are deprived of a cheap source of animal protein to provide a luxury dish for the rich.

The culture of shrimps also raises serious ecological concerns. First, trash-fish has hitherto been the often undesired by-catch of trawling. The advent of shrimp farming has brought about the promotion of highly destructive trawling with extremely small mesh sizes—specifically orientated towards the capture of trash-fish which in turn further aggravates over-exploitation of fishery resources in inshore areas. Second, large areas of mangroves are being converted into shrimp ponds among the most valuable resources for the living of coastal rural people, providing fuel, fodder and employment, mangroves are also important breeding and nursery grounds for many aquatic species.

spontaneity and of being in touch with the real issues. It proved beyond doubt that initiatives at local level—when brought together with enthusiasm and commitment— produce a synergic effect.





Are capital investments geared towards the needs of small-scale fishworkers?

TOO MANY BAD RESULTS

Multi-lateral and bilateral agencies rarely evaluate the impact of their development programmes; and if they do so, the reports are not meant for the public at large as the content is often too embarrassing for the agency or the government concerned. One important demand of the ICSF is therefore that more attention be given to the monitoring and evaluation of development programmes and that the results of such evaluations be made accessible to, interested members of the public.

The little evaluation work that has been done by multilateral and bilateral agencies indicates that the overall performance of fisheries projects has been poor and generally worse than projects implemented in other sectors such as agriculture. The bad performance has various causes, including the introduction of inappropriate fishing vessels and gear, over-investment in industrialized vessels leading to over-exploitation of fishery resources and the mis-management and diversion of funds by implementing agencies.

The only criterion applied by international agencies for evaluating their investment projects is the internal rate of return. This criterion takes no account of who benefits from

a given project and whose interests may be threatened by it. Such evaluation reports therefore fail to assess, for example, the impact of a programme to expand export-orientated industrial fisheries on artisanal fishermen or on local consumers of fish.

For effective monitoring and evaluation of fisheries projects; the ICSF needs the assistance of supporters and fishworkers organizations, and of the readers of SAMUDRA REPORT in general.

For this purpose, the ICSF Secretariat has given below a list of questions for those of you who are aware of the planning or implementation of fisheries projects which are likely to be damaging to the interests of fishworkers. Upon receipt of the replies, the Secretariat will approach the respective agency to obtain further information and clarification and, if needed, will attempt to halt such projects through the organization of public opposition on local, national and international levels.

In the forthcoming issues of SAMUDRA REPORT we shall report on the information collected in this manner and on the steps taken by the ICSF Secretariat to prevent programmes and projects contrary to the interests of fishworkers.

QUESTIONS

regarding the impact of development programmes on fishworkers and fish consumers

(the Secretariat may contact respondents again to obtain more detailed information)

- 1) Title of development project
 - 2) Names and addresses of (a) funding agencies and (b) implementing agencies
 - 3) Address of project headquarters and area of project operations
 - 4) Brief description of planned or operational activities
(E.g. construction of harbour; introduction of fishing boats; construction of fish or shrimp ponds, etc.)
 - 5) Brief assessment of (observed or expected) project impact on:
 - (a) Living conditions of fishworkers (e.g. higher or lower catches, increase or decrease in incomes, more or less employment, greater or lesser dependency on imported fishing supplies, better or worse working conditions, etc.).
 - (b) On the environment (e.g. destruction of mangroves, over-exploitation of fishery resources, pollution, etc.).
 - (c) On fish consumers (e.g. better or worse supply of fish in rural and urban areas, higher or lower fish prices, etc.).
 - 6) Description of (observed or expected) conflicts among various interest groups (e.g. artisanal versus industrial fisheries, local elites versus fishworkers, etc.).
 - 7) Brief description of local and national fishworkers' organizations and actions taken—or planned—to mount opposition
 - 8) Suggestions as to how the ICSF can assist in the local struggle.
- Please send your replies to:
Secretary ICSF, rue Gretry, 65
B-1000 Brussels, BELGIUM.**

The last word...

TECHNOLOGY

A new device to check illegal trawling?

What can be done to prevent trawlers operating in areas legally reserved for artisanal fishermen? Quite a lot, it seems, if the research department of Keltron, a Trivandrum-based electronics company has anything to do with the matter.

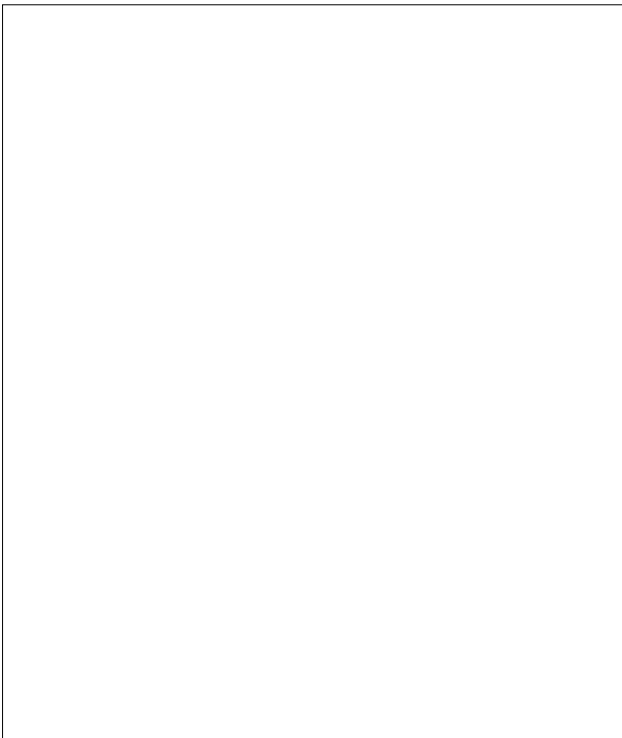
Keltron offers harbour police— until now frequently powerless to enforce the law—a “black box” which, once installed below a trawler’s bridge, enables verification as to whether the vessel is operating within legal depths.

Based on a relatively simple principle, the device has a built-in echo sounder that triggers a bell when the trawler is fishing at illegal depths, but gives the skipper a reasonable period of time to withdraw his nets before registering a penalty. Penalties recorded over a year are payable when the owner of the vessel goes to renew his fishing license.

This device promises to be a boon to coastal fishermen suffering from illegal trawling in shallow waters. Trade unions and their supporters can now bring pressure to bear on government authorities to introduce similar controls on all trawlers.

For further information, write to the manufacturer:

Mr. Krishna Warrior, Production Engineer,
KELTRON Research Centre, Trivandrum 695001
Kerala State, INDIA.



INDIA

A new law to protect inland fishermen?

A report from Bangalore

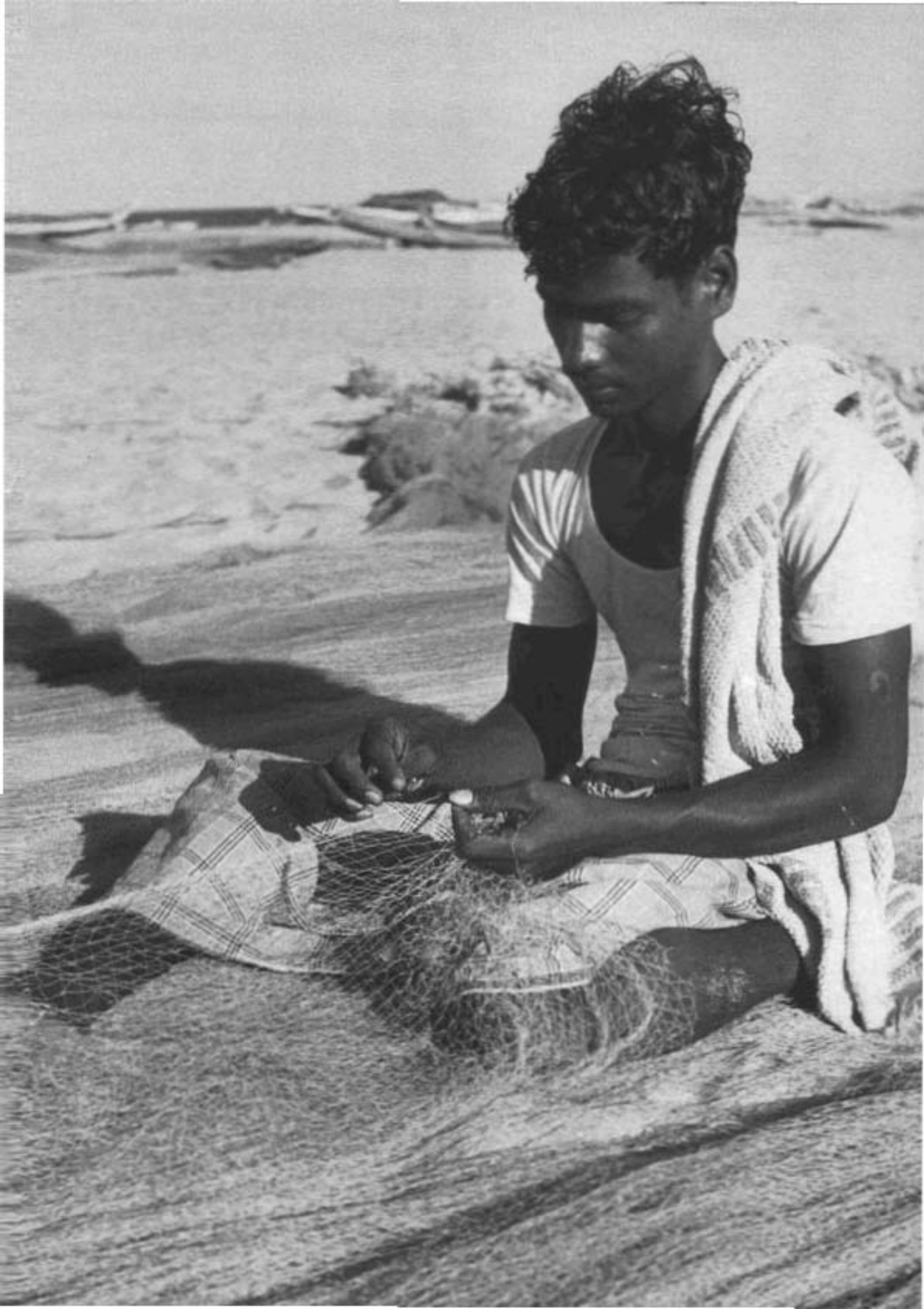
The National Fishermen’s Forum of India held a national congress last December. Mr. Raghupathi, Minister of Fisheries in the State of Karnataka, concluded the session by stating that he was preparing a new law to protect the rights of small inland fishermen who ought to be the prime beneficiaries of aquaculture but who so seldom are. Other issues covered included the problem of water pollution by industrial effluents (zinc, mercury, etc.) — especially in the Tungabhadra river—fish stock management and the social problems caused by the eviction of thousands of fisher-folk by the construction of new defense installations and space research centres.



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P. Gillet, Editor
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