



Based at INFOFISH, Kuala Lumpur, and set up with the assistance of FAO, the Advisory Service for Fishing Technology for the Asia/Pacific strives to facilitate dissemination of information on fishing technology and equipment for the industry and research/training institutions as well as to promote links between research institutions, administration and industry. Since 1992, INFOFISH has issued a quarterly newsletter collating global fisheries news and new items relating to fishing technology and fish harvesting.

Information on fishing technology and equipment also appears in *INFOFISH International*, a bi-monthly magazine of which the forthcoming issue will include an article on a "*Satellite oceanographic maps-a boon for high seas & coastal fishing*". A supplementary section on "Industry Notes" provides information on latest developments in the global fisheries scene. New equipment and innovations are also featured. Comments and contributions are welcome, as are requests/recommendations for inclusion in the mailing list.

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**ANNOUNCING****PACIFIC TUNA FORUM 2009**

2nd Pacific Tuna Industry and Trade Conference  
2-3 September 2009, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

Jointly organised by INFOFISH and the National Fisheries Authority of Papua New Guinea (NFA), and supported by key regional organisations, **PACIFIC TUNA FORUM**, is the major international tuna industry event in the Pacific.

As the largest tuna producer, the Pacific Ocean holds the future of the global tuna industry. Thus the forum is not only important for the tuna industry and fleet operators in the Pacific, but also for the tuna industry and other ancillary industries all over the world, which depend on tuna supplies from the region.

The **PACIFIC TUNA FORUM** will also be a build-up event to the 11th INFOFISH World Tuna Conference and Exhibition 2010.

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**Editor's Note**

All these years, the Fishing Technology Digest has come to you on a complimentary basis. Rising production costs have, however, compelled us to switch to a new format and adopt alternative printing arrangements. We hope you will understand our predicament and bear with us. Despite the constraints, there will be no sacrifice on quality and content. Needless to say, in the present scenario we would welcome any assistance from companies or organisations through full or partial sponsorship of the Digest to ensure its uninterrupted production.

## FISHERIES

### 1 FISHNET portal for Indian Coastal States

With coastal security and fishing vessel identification gaining new dimensions in the wake of the Mumbai terror attacks, India's Union Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF), in association with the National Informatics Centre (NIC), is now mooted a proposal to roll out the FISHNET portal of the State Department of Fisheries to all coastal States in the country.

The Fisheries Information System Network (FISHNET) portal was first developed by NIC Kerala for the State Fisheries Department to facilitate computerised registration and licence issuing for fishing vessels. Kerala became the first State to introduce computerised registration and licence for fishing vessels in April 2008. The INR 200 000 (US\$4,112) e-governance project has now developed into a comprehensive fisheries database.

The computerised registration and licence issuing, enabled by FISHNET, have been done as per the guidelines of Kerala Marine Fisheries Registration Act. With the FISHNET portal, information regarding fishing vessels and owners is just a fingertip away. The Fisheries Department has received around 22,000 applications for vessel registration and licence, including mechanised and non-mechanised vessels. Of this 18,000 vessels have been issued registration certificates. The alphanumeric registration numbers of each vessel now acted as a key to all information regarding the vessel and its owner.

Following the successful implementation of FISHNET in Kerala, the project is now proposed to be implemented in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Daman & Diu, Goa, Karnataka, Lakshadweep, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal. The portal is also expected to benefit Coastal Guards, Navy, State Marine Police, MPEDA, Mercantile Marine Department and the Bay of Bengal Programme.

"On 21 January, a workshop has been held at NIC Delhi to discuss the national roll-out of the project," said NIC Kerala State Informatics Officer, V.S. Raghunathan.

At the national level, FISHNET is proposed to be developed into a fisheries information hub where officials, scientists, researchers and beneficiaries can get ready access to the computer based databases.

The website will also have a database on fishing vessels and their movement in the seas besides database of crew and owner. The project also includes establishment of a network of fish landing centres throughout the coastal areas.

"We had given a presentation of the Kerala FISHNET portal to DADF officials in October 2008 and they said that the project could be emulated in other coastal districts of the State. Now with the emphasis on security issues related with fishing vessels, the authorities are keen to implement it in other coastal States immediately," said NIC project co-ordinator M. Kasthuri.

ICSF 12 January, 2009

### 2 Philippines fishermen helped to escape middlemen sharks

The fishermen of the Agusan marshes in the southern Philippines island of Mindanao have to watch out for sharks, but they do not find them in the water. It is a hard life for the Manobo people who live around the 59 lakes and rivers of the Marshland. The natural crop they seek to harvest is the mudfish which they sell to the mainstream Muslim population who regard the fish as a delicacy. It is not a dependable livelihood because the freshwater fish is abundant only when the rains come. The dry seasons – from April to May and again from September to November – signal the hard times.

The sharks who prey on them are of the human variety. Middlemen offer cash advances or loans for the over-priced fishing nets they supply, then tie the fisher families to sell at knock-down prices. Sometimes, these traders pay less than a third of the price the fish fetch in the markets just down the road.

With no other source of capital, the fisher families are trapped. Or at least they were until a fish-processing co-operative was set up with the support of One World Action, one of the three charities which has been featured in this year's Independent Christmas appeal. The co-op's processing plant buys fish for double the usual price and has trained local people in improved drying and salting techniques to raise the quality of their produce. The project is typical of the work of the three charities on which independent correspondents around the globe have reported every day for the past month, for each has gone beyond giving hand-outs and has empowered people in some of the world's poorest communities to take control of their own destinies.

The emphasis, in Mindanao as elsewhere, has been on assisting disadvantaged people to bring about change in their own societies.

ICSF 9 January, 2009

### 3 Why storms are good news for fishermen

On the surface of the sea conditions can be atrocious, with freezing gales and enormous swells. Slip beneath the waves and descend into the blue, however, and you enter another world, a more tranquil place where the violence of the waves above turns into an ever-gentler to-and-fro, and the temperature never falls much below freezing.

We tend to assume that life in the oceans is insulated from the vagaries of the weather. But it is turning out that what goes on above the water's surface is intimately linked to the survival of the creatures below it, even far down in the depths of the ocean.

A single storm hitting at just the right moment, or a particularly icy winter, can lead to bumper catches of fish or traps full of crabs a few years later. Longer term climatic changes can also lead to huge swings in fish numbers. The biggest fisheries disaster so far, the collapse of the Grand Banks cod fishery off Newfoundland, Canada, might have been linked to such factors.

With many other fisheries teetering on the brink, these new insights could prove vital. If we can predict how fish numbers will vary naturally

months or even years in advance, managers can reduce quotas before stocks are decimated, or increase them when conditions are favourable.

Some climatic phenomena, such as the El Niño-Southern Oscillation in the Pacific, have an even more dramatic impact. The effect of El Niño events on fish has probably been observed for millennia, if not understood. Normally, during non-El Niño years, easterly trade winds blow warm surface water across the equatorial Pacific, causing it to 'pile up' in the west. This produces a strong upwelling off the coast of Peru, as cold, deep water rich in nutrients rises to replace the departing warm water. Fish, especially anchovies, thrive in these productive waters: around 10 per cent of the world's total fish catch comes from Peru.

ICSF 9 January, 2009

#### 4 Sri Lanka's fisheries industry records progress

The fisheries industry in Sri Lanka has recorded a 28.6 per cent progress during the third quarter of last year compared to the 1.2 per cent progress achieved during the corresponding period of previous year, according to statistics of the Census and Statistics Department.

The increase in deep-sea fishing and the relaxing of fishing restrictions along the eastern coastal area had largely contributed towards this progress, a Government Information Department release said.

The harvest of sea fish alone had increased from 49,280 metric tons to 61,300 metric tons during this period which is a 24.4 per cent increase. The development of inland fishing industry had contributed to the 50.4 per cent increase in the inland fish harvest. Six million fingerlings were released to the reservoirs early last year which contributed to the increased harvest during the last quarter of last year.

ICSF 2 January, 2009

#### 5 Polluted seas result in US\$3 billion loss

Based on a report released by the State Oceanic Administration (SOA) of China recently, the polluted sea areas of China increased from 78 percent in 2007 to about 83 percent last year.

The polluted areas were affected by eutrophication, a process in which water bodies receive excess nutrients that stimulate excessive plant growth, such as algae and other nuisance plant and weeds. It also causes other problems, including lack of oxygen and severe reduction in water quality, fish and other animal populations. The SOA requested all oceanic departments to take necessary measures to strengthen monitoring and prevention of "red tides" and other algal blooms. Pollutants were blamed for the cause of 'red tides' in which large amounts of algae kill sea life. These algae vary in colour from green to brown, but are mostly red.

China saw 68 cases of red tides last year, fewer than the 82 cases in 2007. However, they contaminated a total of 13,738 square kilometers from the previous year. While some experts said it was a result of climate change and heavy rain, environmentalists believed the algae

blooms were largely due to sewage and agricultural pollutant runoff. The algal blooms caused marine disasters resulting in 152 people dead or missing in China last year, with direct economic losses of CNY 20.61 billion (US\$ 3 billion) compared to CNY 8.8 billion (US\$ 1.3 billion) in 2007.

INFOFISH International 2/2009

#### 6 Indian fishermen protest restriction due to premier's visit

Following a letter from the Fisheries Department of the south Indian State of Tamil Nadu placing restrictions on fishing for three days from Wednesday, fishermen have threatened to stage a black-flag demonstration on Thursday.

"On Tuesday evening, we received the communication from the Assistant Director, Fisheries Department, that we should not set out for sea because of the security arrangements being made for the Prime Minister's visit. It will affect the daily earning of thousands of fishermen and their families," said Fishermen's Welfare Association President, Ku Bharathi.

The Indian Coast Guard, however, said there is no ban on fishing, only restrictions. "Fishermen are free to carry on their work five nautical miles from the coast," Coast Guard Regional Commander, S P S Basra said. "The request is driven by safety concern, since there is no mechanism to identify a friend from a foe on the seas," added Basra. The Coast Guard has been mooted the idea of a voluntary monitoring system for fishermen to keep enemies at bay, said Basra.

Fishermen however are dissatisfied with the five nautical miles concession. "Our boats do not have the required horse power to venture into the deep sea. We normally fish three miles from the coast," they said. "Lack of compensation for three days has upset many fishermen, although they share the concern for the safety of the city and its visitors" said Bharathi. The restriction applies to the districts of Chennai, Tiruvallur and Kancheepuram. People of 45 hamlets in the city are involved in fishing in Chennai, 44 in Kancheepuram and 45 in Tiruvallur.

ICSF 8 January, 2009

#### 7 Mauritius fishery industry development

The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) has announced that it will help Mauritius to develop a project to improve the landing jetties for fishermen, storage and marketing facilities.

Speaking on the development in Port Louis, the Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism, Xavier Luc Duval said that part of the Kuwaiti funds will be used to build bigger fishing vessels which will allow fishermen to fish out of the lagoons. Duval added that with the development of aquaculture, those fishermen who do not wish to go out to fish in the sea will be able to find jobs in this new sector.

INFOFISH International 2/2009

### *8 US agency to work with 6 nations to address illegal fishing*

The United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) today submitted the first ever report to Congress identifying nations – France, Italy, Libya, Panama, the People's Republic of China, and Tunisia – whose fishing vessels were engaged in illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in 2007 or 2008.

This opens the way for continued consultations between the U.S. government and officials of each of the six nations to encourage them to take corrective action to stop IUU fishing by their vessels. "Illegal fishing is a global problem that is depleting fish stocks and hurting the economies of nations and the livelihoods of people who depend on sustainable fishing," said Dr. Jim Balsiger, NOAA acting Assistant Administrator for NOAA's Fisheries Service.

Annual global economic losses due to IUU fishing are estimated to be about \$9 billion, according to an international task force on IUU fishing. According to NOAA's report, the identified nations had fishing vessels that did not comply with measures agreed to under various international regional fishery management organizations. In the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea, fishing vessels of identified nations were using illegal fishing gear, fishing during a closed season, or not complying with reporting requirements.

Failure to report catch and effort data to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas hampers the ability of that regional fishery management organization to conduct vital stock assessments used to manage and rebuild stocks, such as the severely depleted eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. In the Pacific Ocean, an identified nation had vessels that violated an international rule requiring any vessel fishing for tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean be listed in the vessel register for the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, the regional fishery management organization that manages tuna stocks in that area.

Today's identification of nations follows two years in which NOAA's Fisheries Service, working with the U.S. Department of State, conducted extensive outreach at bilateral and multilateral meetings to inform fishing nations of the new international measures to combat IUU fishing under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act. The Act, signed into law in 2007, amends the High Seas Driftnet Moratorium Protection Act to require the U.S. to strengthen international fishery management organizations and address IUU-fishing and the bycatch of protected living marine resources.

Specifically, the Moratorium Protection Act now requires the Secretary of Commerce to identify in a biennial report to Congress those foreign nations whose fishing vessels are engaged in IUU fishing or fishing activities or practices that result in the bycatch of protected living marine resources. The act also now requires the secretary to certify whether these identified nations have stopped IUU fishing and the bycatch of protected resources. Today's identification will be followed by consultations to urge nations to adopt corrective measures. Following consultations, NOAA will formally certify each of the six nations either as adopting effective measures to stop IUU fishing, or having vessels engaged in IUU fishing. If a nation is found to be engaged in IUU

fishing, that nation's vessels may be denied entry into U.S. ports and the President may prohibit imports of certain fish products from that nation or take other measures. Today's report to Congress also includes information on the status of living marine resources around the globe and multilateral efforts to improve stewardship of these resources. NOAA also has just released a proposed rule that outlines the procedures for identifying and certifying nations for IUU fishing and bycatch of protected living marine resources. A draft environmental assessment of the rule is also now available.

*NOAA 13 January, 2009*

### *9 What's the meaning of the IWC resolution against violence of SS?*

Not only international law but the resolution of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) against violent acts of Sea Shepherd Conservation Society (SS) against Japan's whale research meets in the Antarctic have been trampled upon again.

Kyodo Senpaku Kaisha, Ltd., the owner of the Japanese research vessels in the Antarctic, said on February 10 that the international community must start applying global maritime laws, which protect ships and their crews from the type of violence being perpetrated on the high-seas by the renegade Dutch vessel, Steve Irwin operated by the SS.

The United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) establishes clear rules to prevent the high seas from being a lawless zone. Living up to these UNCLOS obligations represents a test for the governments of the Netherlands and Australia, which have so far hesitated to apply agreed international maritime rules to prevent these criminal acts, "Mr. Kazuo Yamamura, the President of Kyodo Senpaku said.

"We have witnessed Sea Shepherd members firing projectiles at the Japanese vessels, throwing acid-filled glass bottles onto our decks and deploying specially-designed fouling lines to damage our propellers, among other illegal acts. Then they escalated the attacks by ramming two of our ships Ethe Yushin Maru No.2 and Yushin Maru No.3. The vessels have been considerably damaged.

"Failure to apply international agreements provides support to this animal rights group's use of violence and undermines the rule of law. By allowing this Dutch vessel safe haven in port, the Australian Government is complicit in sanctioning criminal acts on the high seas. These maritime laws are not options. If they are not applied, they are of little value."

"The escalating terror attacks will necessitate consideration of new security strategies to protect our ships and crews," Mr. Yamamura said. "This is no longer an issue of whaling, but has become more about the international community permitting this Dutch ship to commit criminal acts at sea and thereby putting our crews' lives at risk." Mr. Yamamura urged the governments of both Australia and New Zealand to no longer allow the SS safe haven in either country.

ISARIBI believes that any IWC member country that does not deny the

SS vessel 's entry into its port should know that it is ignoring the IWC resolution adopted by consensus and admitting violent activities.

*Isaribi, February 2009*

### **10 Winter of MSC discontent**

An ever-growing segment of the seafood industry appears to be losing its patience with the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). There was much griping among many seafood executives in Boston about a wide array of things the MSC is — and isn't — doing, and while none of the issues by themselves would put the MSC in jeopardy, the cumulative effect of the complaints could spell trouble.

The biggest criticism was about the way the MSC is handling its talks about finding a new sponsor to head the recertification of Alaska salmon — the buzz at the show was about the heavy-handed letter the MSC sent to buyers of Alaska salmon, asking them to send the letter to their Alaska suppliers, in which they threaten to seek another source of wild salmon (is there one?) if Alaska doesn't maintain the MSC eco-label.

While there's been no fighting in Iceland, the effect is the same: Another world's largest wild fisheries is snubbing the MSC, coming out with its own eco-label that certifies what the fishing entities in Iceland insist everyone already knows — its fish come from well-managed and sustainable sources.

Alaska's quality seal is an attempt at this same assurance of proper management and eco-worthiness, although it stops short of being an "official" eco-label.

The outcome of this stare-down with Alaska will go a long way to determining how the industry perceives the MSC, and whether the major commercial fisheries will continue to play nice with the organization.

Besides this thorny issue, several show attendees expressed some level of dissatisfaction with the MSC for issues such as a lack of management focus, a desire to be all things to all people, and even a lack of science behind its traceability chain-of-custody certification.

Each of these irritations, taken separately, is not the type of issue that could cripple an organization. Taken together, they represent a potential mountain being made from the proverbial molehill, and should serve as a cold smack to the MSC it needs to find a new and improved way to relate to the people in the seafood industry.

Because if the major players of the wild seafood sector decide not to play anymore, there are no fish on which to put those pretty blue MSC labels.

*ICSF 25 March, 2009*

### **11 Execution of fishermen-friendly policy emphasized in Bangladesh**

Participants of a day-long round table conference on 'Review of fishery relating policy, law, act and ordinance' in Bangladesh agreed upon the execution of fishermen-friendly policy at the grassroots level.

They suggested organizing marginal level fishermen with professional identity cards, regular survey and extending socio-economic assistance to improve their conditions, assurance of safety and security and solve their problems by relating local government representatives to develop and preserve open water fishing resources of the country.

Community Development Centre (CODEC) organised the programme and was presided over by Md Israil Pundit, member of upazila alliance body of CODEC, chairman of Chandramohan Union Parishad of Barisal and Central President of Khudra Matsayajibi Samity. The interactive open discussion participated by about 40 participants including grassroots level fishermen, leaders of fishermen association, journalists of print and electronic media, NGO representatives, lawyers and fish merchants.

In the discussion it was revealed that the facilities approved by the policy, law, act and ordinances are mostly fishermen-friendly, but mainly using by the closed water fish farmers, pisciculture cultivators, fish merchant Mahajans and middlemen Faria and Dalals.

The grassroots level real fishermen engaged in vast open water fishing day and night under sun and rain and storm for their livelihood are ignorant, deprived and without capacities to achieve those facilities.

They also became easy targets of the pirates, natural calamities, mahajans, dalals and farias and are victimized by the different activities of the law enforcing agencies, administration, Fisheries Department operated in the name of anti-fish fry drives, the participants said describing their real experiences.

The government imposed bans and operating drives to save the Hilsha fries depriving us from catching indigenous varieties like Kucthki, Malanti and other small type of fishes and mostly helping fish and pisciculture farming of foreign varieties of fishes at inner or closed water sources like tanks and ponds, the marginal level fishermen alleged.

It was also revealed in the discussion that like the agriculture loans for the farmers through Krishi Bank, there was no 'Matsaya Bank' with such broad facilities as investment helps for the marginal fishermen engaged in fishing in open water sources like rivers, haors, estuary, coast and sea.

So marginal fishermen, who are not also well organized, became hostages, paid servants and tools at the hands of Mahajans and money lenders and became victimized by all sectors from pirates to law enforcers, from fish merchant Mahajans to money lenders and always remained as one of the poorest, backward class of the society.

The participants also expressed their agitation against the role of law enforcing agencies for their failure to curb piracy and defend international water boundary from the trespassing foreign fishing boats, demand assurance for safety and security of the lives and properties of the fishermen.

They said that execution government policy to help the marginal fishermen by giving subsidy, alternative job facilities during ban of fishing on open water sources, yet not succeeded and needs incitement of local government representatives with the programme.

*ICSF 27 March, 2009*

## RESEARCH

### 12 Fatty fish prevents memory loss, stroke

Researchers at the University of Kuopio in Finland have found that eating tuna and other fatty fish may help prevent memory loss besides reducing the risk of stroke. People who ate baked or broiled (but not fried) fish high in Omega-3 fatty acids have been found to be less likely to have "silent" brain lesions which can cause memory loss and dementia and are linked to a higher risk of stroke, the researchers found.

One of the researchers, Jyrki Virtanen, said that while previous studies have shown that fish and fish oil can help prevent stroke, this is one of the very few studies that looks at the effect of fish on silent brain lesions in healthy, older people. Omega-3 fatty acids are also found in salmon, mackerel, herring, sardines and other foods such as walnuts. They have been demonstrated to provide an anti-inflammatory effect and have been linked to a lower risk of heart disease.

The Finnish team studied 3,660 people aged 65 years and above who underwent brain scans every five years to detect the silent brain lesions or infarcts found in about 20 percent of otherwise healthy elderly people. The researchers found that men and women who ate omega-3-rich fish three times or more a week had a nearly 26% lower risk of having silent brain lesions. Eating just one serving per week led to a 13% reduced risk, compared to people whose diets did not include this type of fish. Fried fish, however, did not appear to have the same benefits.

*INFOFISH International 2/2009*

### 13 Krill better than fish oil for heart health

Omega-3 fatty acids from krill provide better heart health than omega-3s from fish oil, according to the makers of a krill-based oil. Schiff Nutrition Group of Utah, USA says its MegaRed omega-3 krill oil combines omega-3s with powerful antioxidants, and is three times better than fish oil for supporting heart health.

Like fish oil, Schiff says, MegaRed provides eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), but links them together in a different form with a double-chain phospholipid structure which mimics that of the fats in human cell walls. They say this structure makes it easy for the body to absorb the krill oil, which also contains astaxanthin, an antioxidant the body uses to neutralise free radicals that can damage cell walls. They say this structure makes it easy for the body to absorb the krill oil, which also contains astaxanthin, an antioxidant the body uses to neutralise free radicals that can damage cells and tissues.

A human clinical study of 300-mg MegaRed softgels was compared with several studies on fish oil, and the krill oil was found to be at least three times better than larger amounts of fish oil, Schiff said. Costco, Walgreens, CVS and Sam's Club are among the outlets selling the krill oil.

*INFOFISH International 2/2009*

## EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES

### 14 Autopilots

Couremaster Autopilots Pty Ltd of Australia has been designing, manufacturing and exporting quality autopilots for some 30 years. Coursemaster's autopilots are suitable for small powerboats, cruising and racing yachts, workboats, fishing vessels and coastal freighters. The new CM85i autopilot with intelligent, self-tuning software and rate gyro compass is ideal for both power and sailing vessels of 6-40m length.

*(Coursemaster Autopilots Pty Ltd, Australia)*

### 15 Emergency location beacon

The new Fastfind MAX G emergency position location beacon (PLB) with integral 12 channel GPS has a minimum 48 hour operational battery life from the time of activation and operates at temperatures as low as -20°C. The PLB is designed to be carried by individuals as a safeguard against life threatening incidents. Once activated, it transmits a unique identification signal along with one's current position via international search and rescue satellite system operated by COSPAS SARSAT on 406 MHz. The signal is then quickly passed to regional search and rescue authorities who can rapidly get to the scene.

*(McMurdo, a division of Signature Industries Ltd, UK)*

### 16 Longline gears

Forman Tech Co Ltd, one of the reputed suppliers of commercial fishing gears from the Rep of Korea, has brought out longline tackles for tuna fishing.

The tackles include nylon monofilament fishing lines, snaps, swivels, hooks, sleeves, wire leaders, tools and accessories.

The company also supplies longline equipment such as reel, hauler, shooter and linemaster system. The longline reel has been designed and manufactured using the latest technology.

The main drum is fabricated in marine grade aluminium with a solid aluminium core and stainless steel shaft.

With the robust design, the hauler is easy to operate. It is fabricated in aluminium and 316 stainless steel, enabling the hauler to withstand the harsh marine environment.

The shooter has been designed and manufactured with the latest technology, enabling either deep or shallow water line setting.

*(Forman Tech Co. Ltd, Rep of Korea)*

**17 INFOFISH programme for fisheries officers on fish marketing**

A familiarisation programme on Fish Market Information System was organised by INFOFISH for seven fisheries officers, four from Indonesia and three from Thailand, in Kuala Lumpur from 5 - 9 January 2009. The 5-day programme for the Indonesian officers was part of FAO's project on Fish Market Information System for Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam, Indonesia (GPS/INS/078/SPA), funded by the Spanish government.

The training programme consisted of briefings, field visits and practical sessions as well as group discussions. Apart from the briefings at INFOFISH covering the activities of INFOFISH with a focus on the fish marketing information system, the participants also visited the Fisheries Development Authority of Malaysia (LKIM), the Malaysian External Trade Development (MATRADE) Centre, and the Fishermen's Association of Perak. Field visits were conducted to the Kuala Lumpur wholesale fish market, retail markets, and the fishing port in Lumut, Perak.

**18 Mission to evaluate CFC project**

In October 2008 the project FSCFT-23 "Improvement of the Efficiency in the Commercialization of Artisanal Fishing in Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean" was evaluated in Cuba and Honduras. The mission team comprised Nianjun Shen from the Common Fund for Commodities,

Helga Josupeit from FAO and Roland Wiefels from INFOPECSA.

The objective of these visits was to evaluate the activities of the project, to analyse the challenges and problems, and to suggest a review of the work plan. Graciela Pereira from INFOPECSA joined the team in Tela, Honduras. In Cuba, the mission met with Alfredo Lopez Valdes, the Minister of Fishing Industry, and briefed on the current state and future activities. In Honduras the team visited the two ice factories provided in the framework of the project.

**19 Workshops on domestic markets**

FAO's project TCP/RLA/3111 (Improvement of the domestic markets for fish and fishery products in Latin America and the Caribbean) is currently being executed in several countries in the region. The main objective is to promote the domestic and regional consumption of fish and seafood, improve the marketing conditions and assure quality in the different stages of the value chain. The scheduled activities of the project included workshops for those directly involved in the trading of fish (fishsellers and distributors) and others involved in the chain.

So far workshops were held in Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua and Dominican Republic. In the case of Brazil, three seminars were held in the cities of Itajai, Rio de Janeiro and Brasilia.

PUBLICATIONS

**20 Survey Vessels of the World**

7th Edition 2008/2009

Another detailed, accurate and up-to-date global directory of an entire class of vessels from the hyperactive research department of Clarksons, the world's largest ship broker.

Effectively, every significant survey or research vessel of the world along with every owner of such vessels and their complete fleets.

Many of the vessels are pictured and some benefit from an accompanying general arrangement drawing. All have a useful and reasonably detailed specification listing.

They range from quite small (around 20 metres LOA) to very large (100 metres or more). It is interesting that the average age of vessels listed is 24 years.

Divided into: Seismic/Geophysical Survey; Hydrographic/Multi-Role Survey; and Research/Oceanographic Survey, the directory provides potential charterers with the best possible guide to what is available.

A particularly useful and well-presented reference.

Available from Clarkson Research Services, London, UK  
Web: www.crsi.com

**21 Offshore Shipbuilders and Fabrication Yards of the World**

4th Edition 2007/2008

Another fine example of fastidious work to come from Clarkson Research Services of the UK. This one lists almost all the active builders and repairers of OSVs, drilling rigs and associated vessels.

While it makes no recommendations as to the value or performance of the shipyards listed, it does provide a comprehensive catalogue of their capabilities. It lists most of the significant players in this currently booming sector. There are, though, some notable omissions. There are also some defunct yards included.

Given the difficulty of persuading shipbuilders to fill in forms, even in their own best promotional interests, these deficiencies are understandable. A roughly 80 percent accuracy rate is acceptable with this kind of exercise. This book is probably a little better than that.

Two countries that this reviewer knows particularly well are Australia and Malaysia. The Australian listing is completely wrong and Malaysia has many gaps. This is a pity.

Nevertheless, it is a good overall effort that will be useful to anyone needing to build or repair an offshore vessels of whatever type.

Available from Clarkson Research Services, London, UK  
Web: www.crsi.com

**22 Sri Lanka: First fish processing centre opened**

The first fish processing centre in Sri Lanka, established at a cost of SLR 2.9 million (US\$25,506) was opened by Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Minister, Felix Perera at the Modera fisheries harbour.

The Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources allocated funds for the fish processing centre in collaboration with the Fisheries Harbours Corporation (FHC). The main objective of the project is encouraging local fish exporters, minimizing post harvest waste and providing fresh fish for export purposes. Accordingly, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources has determined to extend the fish processing centre network throughout the country for the beneficiary of fish exporters.

The new fish processing centre has been leased out to four foreign companies and earns SLR 1.2 million (\$10,550) from each company.

ICSF, 2 January , 2009

**23 Taiwan: Fishery groups launch recycling drive to protect marine ecology**

Fishermen's associations around Taiwan will launch a recycling campaign as part of their efforts to conserve marine resources and protect ocean ecology, a fishery official said.

According to the official from the Fisheries Administration under the Council of Agriculture, regional fishermen's associations have issued a joint declaration swearing to demand their members make every possible effort to prevent pollution of oceans while operating on the seas.

All signatories also promise to demand fishermen or sailors bring back all recyclables, including used plastic bottles, Styrofoam containers and waste batteries, at the end of each fishing operation and donate them to charity organizations dedicated to environmental protection work.

At present, the official said, the Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation's Yilan County branch and Hung Yi Volunteer Corps are cooperating with fishing ship owners and fishery associations in the northeastern coastal county to collect recyclables from fishing vessels upon their return to Nanfangao fishing port.

In the future, the official said, the Fisheries Administration will encourage other fishermen's groups to refer to the Tzu Chi and Hung Yi models in forging similar collaboration programs.

ICSF 8 January,2009

**24 Indian Coast Guard undertakes community interaction programme in fishing villages**

The Indian Coast Guard undertakes community interaction programmes regularly by adopting fishing villages and provide basic safety training to the fishermen.

The community interaction programme is instituted in every coastal

State and Union Territory every quarter. The Coast Guard has carried out 43 community interaction meetings with the fishermen along the coast between 1September, 2008 and 31January, 2009.

The community interaction programme being undertaken by Coast Guard is a voluntary effort. Coast Guard acts as an enforcement agency of the Government to check that deep sea fishing vessels comply with various requirements and conditions set by Ministry of Agriculture.

ICSF 26 February, 2009

**25 Pakistan: Fishing trawlers' activities to be monitored closely**

The coastal security agencies of Pakistan have been directed to monitor the activities of heavy trawlers and take stringent action against those involved in illegal fishing and violating the fishing zone limitations within Pakistani waters.

The directives have been issued by the Governor Sindh after complaints lodged about fall in catch by the local fishermen and business community and seizure of six foreign trawlers by the Maritime Security Agency recently.

Chairman of the Trawlers Owners Group, Mehboob Ahmed, told 'The News' that the foreign trawlers scam started 14-15 years ago when they were introduced under the guise desired objectives were achieved and due to over exploitation our catch has drastically dropped."

With licences issued by the Korangi Fisheries Harbour Authority (KFHA), some 17 trawlers are still active in our waters, sources said. In addition, KFHA had also issued licenses to over 10 Chinese-made trawlers belonging to a person with political clout and this was the first time that licences for operations in shallow waters had been issued to a single party.

ICSF 27 February ,2009

**26 Indonesia: Chinese trawler crew await trial**

Some 249 Chinese crew members of eight trawlers who were arrested for alleged illegal fishing by the police in the Maluku province of Indonesia are awaiting trial.

After being detained for eight days at Tulehu Port, Central Maluku, the suspects were taken to Tual under tight police escort, which included two patrol boats sent by the National Police headquarters. Most of the suspects were transported aboard the passenger ship KM Ciremai, which is owned by state shipping line PT Pelni. However, the Chinese skippers and engine operators of the eight trawlers were forced by the police to navigate the vessels to Tual.

Maluku Police spokesman Adj. Sr. Comr. Johannes Huwae told The Jakarta Post that hundreds of foreign nationals had been taken to Tual to stand trial. "The 249 foreign crew members are alleged to have been involved in illegal fishing. They will be processed legally by investigators from the Southeast Maluku Police because court proceedings are set to be held in Tual," Huwae told the Post.

Police boarded the vessels while they were attempting to transfer their catches to another ship in waters off the Aru Islands in the Arafura Sea,

and found that none of the eight crews held fishing permits. In the raid, police confiscated two deep-sea trawling nets and 600 tons of fish and shrimp as evidence.

Data from the Fishery and Maritime Affairs Ministry in 2006, for example, indicates that only 400 out of 1,000 trawlers operating in the Aru Sea held permits.

The authorities had often struggled to apprehend trawlers illegally operating in Indonesian waters because they often operated near to an international band of water between the Aru and Arafura seas, meaning they could quickly flee to international waters and evade capture.

Most of the illegal trawlers originated from China, Thailand, Taiwan, South Korea and Japan. The prevalence of illegal fishing in Aru waters was largely down to the fact that only two patrol boats operated in the region.

Meanwhile, Chinese crew member, Chen Qinggui, 27, was found dead onboard one of the seized boats on 8 January. Huwae, a crew member on the same vessel, said Chen had died in a fall while onboard the ship. While in police custody, Huwae was admitted to Tulehu Hospital after suffering an asthma attack.

*ICSF 13 January, 2009*

### **27 Pakistan: Apprehends 13 Indian boats for illegal fishing**

Pakistan's Maritime Security Agency (MSA) has apprehended 13 Indian fishing boats along with 74 crew members on 24 March for fishing illegally in Pakistani waters.

This was stated by an official of the MSA in a statement issued in Karachi on Wednesday. It said that these boats were found fishing illegally inside the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Pakistan.

The statement further pointed out that Indian fishermen have been cautioned repeatedly to abide by the Maritime limits. However, Indian fishermen continued violation to explore Pakistani fishery resources at the mouth of Indus delta. The 74 apprehended fishermen were handed over to the Docks police station Karachi for further legal proceedings, the statement added.

*ICSF 26 March, 2009*

### **28 Indonesia: Overfishing threatens preservation of Indonesia's natural fish resources**

Various fishery management regions were considered overcrowded, and overfishing could threaten fish resource preservation in Indonesia, an official of the Marine and Fisheries Ministry, said. "Clearly, it's a big challenge for Indonesia to meet the commitment to a responsible fishery management," Soen'an Hadi Poernomo, Head of the Ministry's Statical Data and Information Center, said.

Java Sea, Arafura Sea, Karimata Strait and Sulawesi Sea were over crowded, he said. The by-catch fishery must be controlled in an effort to preserve fish, he said. The number of fishing boats must be of status

quo, or should even be decreased, he said.

He said fishing schedule and equipment must be regulated tightly. "All should be supported by researches which study fish stocks or condition," he said. The Indonesian government had made some efforts to preserve fish through various instrument such as Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), Port State Measure, Global Record of Vessels, and Fish Trade Regulation, he explained.

Regional cooperation in ocean fish management was also needed to preserve fish stocks, Hadi Poernomo said. The 28th session of FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization)'s Committee on Fisheries (COFI) was held in Rome, Italy, on March 2-6, 2009, to discuss among other things the importance of small-scale fisheries, the role that women play within these fisheries, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, climate change and management of deep sea fisheries in the high seas.

*ICSF 31 March, 2009*

### **29 Malaysia: Government wants more private investment in deep-sea fishing**

The Malaysian government wants more private investment in deep-sea fishing, processing and large-scale aquaculture to transform the sector into a modern, dynamic, commercial and hi-tech sector.

The Fisheries Department Director-General, Dato' Junaidi Che Ayub said that the private sector was expected to be the main mover in the growth of the fishing industry in the years to come.

"Under the Third National Agriculture Policy (DPN3), efforts have been taken to encourage more private investment into this sector," he said. He said this after launching the 'Implementation of Eco-system Based Management in Marine Capture Fisheries' guide book which addressed over-exploitation and depletion of marine resources. Junaidi also said that the Government would make it easier for companies to venture into deep-sea fishing and aquaculture.

"Currently there are issues such as lack of labour, suitable technology and restraints by government regulations and procedures to look at," he said.

According to Junaidi, the country's seafood consumption per capita in 2010 would reach 56kg from 39.1kg now. "One of the objectives of the DPN3 is to raise local food production to ensure our food security and help stabilise national inflation," he said.

He added that food output in developing countries was growing at between 1.8% and 2.1% despite having to meet growing food demand between 2.2% and 2.4% yearly. "In the years to come, this deficit between food production and demand will only increase," he said.

At the same time, Junaidi also pointed out that sustainable eco-system management of fisheries was paramount to further ensure food security in seafood and aquaculture.

"We are faced with a reality that fisheries sources and their contribution to our food must be managed well for the future," he said.

*The Star, 31 March, 2009*

## Calendar

May 2009	June	Polfish
<p><b>World Ocean Conference 2009</b></p> <p>From 11-15 May, Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia.</p> <p>Information: Jakarta WOC'09, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Republic of Indonesia, Mina Bahari Building 2, 17th Floor, Jl Medan Merdeka Timur, No 16, Jakarta Pusat 10110 Indonesia.</p> <p>Phone: 62-21-3519070 ext 1773 Fax: 62-21-3860532</p>	<p><b>Seafood Russia 2009</b></p> <p>2-4 June, Crocus Expo Exhibition Centre, Moscow, Russia.</p> <p>Information: Expomedia Events UK, Meridien House, 69-71 Clarendon Road, Watford, WD 17 1 DS, UK.</p> <p>Phone: 44-208-3873200 Email: jon.irwin@eme-uk.com</p>	<p>10th International Fair of Fish Processing and Fish Products - 16-18 June, Exhibition Fairground, Gdansk, Poland.</p> <p>Information: Monika Juskiewicz, Gdansk International Fair Company, 5 Beniowskiego Str, 80-382, Poland.</p> <p>Phone: 48-58-5549362 Fax: 48-58-5549117 Email: juskiewicz@mtgsa.com.pl</p>
<p><b>World Aquaculture 2009</b></p> <p>25- 29 May - <i>Posponed</i> until further notice.</p> <p>Further details contact: Conference Manager</p> <p>Phone: 1-760-7515005 Fax: 1-760-7515003 Email: worldaqua@aol.com Website: www.was.org</p>	<p><b>7th International Conference on Molluscan Shellfish Safety</b></p> <p>14-19 June, Nantes, France.</p> <p>Information: Monika Juskiewicz, Gdansk International Fair Company, 5 Beniowskiego Str, 80-382, Poland.</p> <p>Phone: 33-0-240374192 Fax: 33-0-240374073 Email: icmss09@ifremer.fr</p>	<p><b>July</b></p> <p><b>ILDEX India 2009 (Aquaculture)</b></p> <p>2-4 July, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, India.</p> <p>Information: Pixie Consulting Solutions Ltd, 923/9, Urban Estate, kamal-132001, Haryana, India.</p> <p>Tel: 91-184-4033326 Fax: 91-184-2240050 Email: info@ildexindia.com</p>

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