

# Fishing Technology Digest

*A Newsletter on Fishing Technology, Gear and Methods, Vessels and Equipment*



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE: PAGE NO:

Fisheries .....	2,3
Responsible Fisheries .....	4,5
Research .....	6
Equipment & Supplies .....	6
Workshop/Training .....	7
Publications .....	7
National News .....	8,9
Calendar .....	10

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.

and equipment also appears in *INFOFISH International*, a bi-monthly magazine of which the current issue will include an article on ***Towards the development of eco-friendly purse seines by P. Pravin and B. Meenakumari.***

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, so are requests/recommendations for inclusion in the mailing list.

Information on fishing technology

## ANNOUNCING

# TUNA 2012 BANGKOK

## 12<sup>TH</sup> INFOFISH WORLD TUNA TRADE CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

### 23-25 May, 2012



The world's largest tuna industry gathering where industry leaders and stakeholders from all over the world meet.

The series of world tuna trade conferences, organized by INFOFISH, has always been the best forum for the industry players to keep abreast of the latest trends and developments, exchange views and make business deals with partners from all over the world.

**TUNA 2012** will take a close look at the current issues and challenges facing the global tuna industry.



### ***Satellite-based advisories to cover all fishing communities***

The Indian National Centre of Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) is planning to cover the entire fishing community of the country under the Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ) advisory services that deliver accurate information on fish abundance. The PFZ advisories provide the latitudes and longitudes of the areas of fish abundance, the distance and direction from different fishing harbours. The advisories, based on satellite data, are disseminated in local languages thrice a week in various modes like email, electronic display boards (EDB), television, and village resource centres of the Indian Space Research Organisation, in collaboration with various NGOs. The advisories have been found to be both timely, accurate and of significant value to the fishing community and also helped to enhance their income level.

INCOIS will install EDB in all the fishing harbours in the next one to two years that will disseminate information on weather condition and fish abundance, besides sending advisories through SMS. Advisories were being provided in all the coastal states at 200 major fishing harbours as of now and INCOIS seeks to increase that number to about 500 fishing harbours in the next 2-3 years. There are over 100 000 mechanised fishing vessels, out of which about 60 000 are utilising PFZ advisories. In addition to the mechanised boats, there are more than 100 000 traditional fishing crafts. INCOIS is aiming to cover them also as only a few of such fishers have been able to get the data. The goal is to reach all the fisher communities in 4 500 fishing villages.

*INFOFISH International 5/2011*

### ***Innovative fishing-day trading scheme introduced***

The eight Pacific island countries known as the Parties to the Nauru Agreement or PNA group (Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Palau, Nauru, Kiribati, Tuvalu, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia) have decided to reduce tuna catch by almost 30 percent. The total number of fishing-days will be reduced from around 40 000 this year to just over 28 000 next year through a fishing-day trading system. The move has been prompted by continuing concern about fish stocks, particularly bigeye and yellow-fin tuna.

The new system is working, according to officials in Majuro, Marshall Islands. The Solomon Islands has agreed to buy unused fishing days from the Marshall Islands. Papua New Guinea also purchased 500 days from Palau recently. In both cases, the South Pacific nations had run out of the days allotted to them for 2011. PNA controls a vast ocean area where 25 percent of the world's tuna are caught annually. The PNA also announced plans this week to hike the price of a "fishing day" to US\$ 5 000 beginning next year.

*INFOFISH International 5/2011*

### ***New fisheries policy proposal unveiled***

In its proposals for a major reform of the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the European Commission set out a radical approach to fisheries management in Europe, based on scientific advice.

The plan aims to end overfishing, restore fish stocks to sustainable levels by 2015 and allow operators to lease concessions of at least 15 years. These concessions will give the fishing industry a longer-term perspective, more flexibility and greater accountability, while at the same time reducing overcapacity. The practice of

throwing unwanted fish overboard, known as discarding, will be phased out and fishers will be obliged to land all the commercial species that they catch. The proposal stresses the need for the availability of reliable and complete data sets relevant to the fisheries sector and establishes rules and obligations for Member States on data collection and management. The Commission aims to have the reformed package on fisheries adopted and enforced by 1 January 2013.

*INFOFISH International 5/2011*

### ***Joint development of fuel cell technology***

*Wärtsilä*, a leading provider of power solutions to the marine markets, and *Versa Power Systems (VPS)*, a leading developer of environmentally-friendly, high-power solid oxide fuel cells (SOFC), announced a co-operative agreement to develop and integrate *Versa Power's* SOFC technology into *Wärtsilä* products. A key target of the agreement is to develop commercial *Wärtsilä* fuel cell products that generate power and heat for various applications. The agreement allows *Wärtsilä* to integrate VPS fuel cell stack modules,

especially for larger power range products.

Advancing and commercialising fuel cell products is part of *Wärtsilä's* long-term development strategy. *Wärtsilä* has already launched successful pilot projects using fuel cell technology supplied by *Topsoe Fuel Cell A/S* headquartered in Denmark, and this co-operation will continue as planned. Fuel cells are considered to be one of the most exciting energy technologies for the future. They are electro-chemical devices that combine a fuel source gas with oxygen to produce electricity, heat and water. The absence of combustion

processes significantly reduces harmful emissions of nitrogen and sulphur oxides and particulate emissions are essentially zero. As electricity is generated directly and involves no intermediate mechanical or thermal

processes, fuel cells can also be more efficient than conventional combustion-based technologies.

*INFOFISH International 6/2011*

### ***Five-country project on tuna longlining***

A regional fisheries project of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of Rome will commence in Sri Lanka shortly. The two-year, five-country project, entitled "On board handling and sustainable market development of longline-caught tuna", includes India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Pakistan and Iran.

Tuna account for the bulk of seafood exports from Sri Lanka valued at US\$ 190 million and the country is the main supplier of fresh tuna to the European market.

With issues related to tuna resource sustainability coming to the forefront, the fisheries ministry also plans to deter any illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. This will be achieved through the planned implementation of a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), introduction of a log book system for all 3 400 or so multi-day boats, and employment of other port state measures to strengthen Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) activities.

Co-organized by INFOFISH, the project will support the development of longline fishery in the country by providing training and technical know-how on improved on-board and onshore handling of tuna and other longline-caught fish. The project will also provide training in product and market diversification and quality and safety assurance of longline-caught fish.

*INFOFISH International 6/2011*

### ***Fishbanks management flight simulator***

Imagine you are a leader in the fishing industry. You have to balance the need to compete against others and make a living in a tough industry with the need to limit the total catch in order to sustain the fishery for future generations. Your decisions affect your company's bottom line and the health of fish stocks and ocean ecosystems. Can you earn a profitable living without decimating the fish stocks, forcing everyone into bankruptcy and destroying the communities that rely on fishing for their livelihood?

can be used to explore such scenarios.

In this newest management flight simulator, Sterman notes that some participants recognise the fishing industry's sustainability challenges early in the game and attempt to negotiate fishing limits or quotas. However, teams often defect from those agreements to maximise their financial gain, thereby wiping out the fish. Defection generates strong emotions among the players, often leading to confrontations between the cooperators and defectors and creating important teaching moments around critical issues in real fisheries.

Teachers and students everywhere can now explore such scenarios through *Fishbanks*, an interactive, management flight simulator available online at no cost through the MIT Sloan Teaching Innovation Resources (MSTIR) website. Designed by MIT Sloan School of Management Professor John Sterman to teach about the challenges of sustainably managing common pool resources, this web-based simulation of the game

"In the post-game debriefing, we explore examples of successful resource management and the economic, political and social policies needed to implement and sustain them," Sterman says.

*INFOFISH International 6/2011*

### ***North Sea platforms are fish magnets***

Oil platforms in the North Sea are attracting more cod and haddock than previously thought and wind farm installations could be designed with reefs in mind to help attract fish. Scientists have long been aware of the "reef effect" whereby artificial structures such as oil platform in the sea act as havens for fish, but a two year study by Aberdeen University academic Toyonobu Fujii has found structures in the sea attract more fish than previously thought. Currently, all the –offshore platforms and the safety zones around these platforms, combined, account for only 0.08 percent of the surface area of the North Sea.

to aggregate around these structures was much higher than the surface area alone would suggest. It is not yet known exactly why fish gather around the structures, said the researcher

With the North Sea set for a makeover as a source of wind power over the next decade— the British government expects offshore wind to make up most of the renewable electricity capacity needed to reach its 2020 target. If a certain design will attract more fish than the other, then a renewable energy structure can be redesigned to attract fish, says the researcher.

However, the proportion of fish abundance estimated

*Reuters Sep 29, 2011*

### ***A fresh approach to fisheries***

Plans to ensure Scotland maximises the potential of its fisheries and seafood sectors were unveiled by Fisheries Secretary Richard Lochhead. A refreshed stakeholder engagement plan, covering both fisheries management and seafood supply and marketing, will ensure that all those involved in the fishing industry work together to achieve the best results. By adopting a more strategic two-pronged approach, Mr Lochhead said, the government could improve engagement with stakeholders and ensure everyone worked towards a common goal. It is this common approach, he said, that will undoubtedly deliver best results.

Two new overarching bodies will be created to take this work forward: The Fisheries Management and Conservation Group will build on the success of the Conservation Credits Steering Group and cover all aspects of inshore and offshore sea fisheries; The Scottish Seafood Partnership will replace the existing Scottish Fisheries Council and will be made up of the key players from processors, retailers and producer organisations seeking to maximise continuity of supply opportunities to add value from net to plate for all seafood products.

*INFOFISH International 5/2011*

### ***Fisheries code of ethics comes into force***

The 'Code of Ethics for Responsible Fisheries and Aquaculture in the States of Central America' came into force as part of the integration policy of fisheries and aquaculture of the signatory countries: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. As reported by the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System (SICA), this Code is an expression of the common will of authorities, fishers and farmers to join national, regional and global aims for a responsible use of fisheries resources and aquaculture for the benefit of present and future generations.

The main objectives of the Code are to establish,

promote, encourage and spread values, behaviour and ethical and moral principles that facilitate the management, exploitation and sustainable use of fisheries resources and aquaculture. To ensure the fisheries management, regulations based on scientific data will come into force in order to restore them to levels that allow dynamically sustainable catches. The director of the Organization of Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of Central America (Ospesca), Mario González, said that the Code is a specific tool to promote actions to ensure people's change of attitude so as to have responsible fishing. According to a census conducted by Ospesca in Central America in 2010, there were 135 400 artisanal fishers.

*INFOFISH International 5/2011*

### ***Strengthening commitment to improve tuna fisheries***

The International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) has launched the 'Make the Commitment' project, the next phase of its strategic effort to transform tuna fisheries. The global improvement plan addresses the sustainability of the three most common methods of tuna fishing: purse seine, longline, and pole & line. Advocacy or research alone is insufficient and it is not enough to simply educate; hence, there must be a combination of these efforts working in tandem, with the same goal, said ISSF.

The project recognises that all stakeholders - fishers, processors, governments and conservationists - should facilitate advancements for the most commonly fished tuna species - skipjack, yellowfin, bigeye, and albacore. There are about 600 large-scale purse seine vessels harvesting 60% of the world's tuna and collectively they are the most well-monitored and controlled vessels fishing for tuna. The relatively small number of large-scale vessels supplying most of the catch helps the plan

to be more focused and effective. ISSF says that the participating companies have already pledged to begin working with their suppliers to meet the deadlines in this plan, which will reduce environmental impact.

Specific tactics include across-the-board retention of bycatch to improve data and eliminate waste; 100 percent observer coverage onboard vessels to ensure best practices and responsible fishing; work to foster the creation of markets for bycatch; mandates on longline fisheries to institute best practices in mitigating bird bycatch, improved hook technology and turtle release education; and the development of management programmes for baitfish fisheries for pole and line baitfish. As part of its commitment, ISSF will build an online database of vessels adopting best-in-class practices, develop training courses for observers and skippers and lead the creation of a universal global vessel monitoring system.

*INFOFISH International 5/2011*

### ***Award for helping fishing communities***

*Blue Ventures*, a London-based marine conservation organisation, won the prestigious Buckminster Fuller Challenge award for its work to protect marine resources and improve the livelihoods of poor coastal communities in Madagascar. *Blue Ventures* was selected from 165 entries from more than 35 countries as winner of the US\$ 100 000 award. *Blue Ventures* integrates marine conservation with economic and social development strategies in order to improve the livelihoods of some of the world's poorest coastal communities in Madagascar and elsewhere.

*Blue Venture* was recognised for its unique whole-system approach - combining scientific research, development of sustainable aquaculture, family planning support, environmental education, and the creation of community-led protected areas - to bring direct benefits to both people and nature. Alongside the ecosystem and fisheries benefits of conservation,

*Blue Ventures'* work is aimed at diversifying incomes and empowering women, often for the first time in their lives, with the ability to make their own reproductive health choices.

The results of *Blue Ventures'* pioneering work have demonstrated for the first time that community-based marine conservation brings direct economic benefits to traditional fishing communities.

Because of these benefits, fisheries management models developed by *Blue Ventures* in the Indian Ocean have been replicated by coastal communities in over 100 sites along several hundred kilometres of coastline, and have given rise to new national environmental legislation in Madagascar. The prestigious Buckminster Fuller Challenge uses a distinguished jury to award visionary initiatives that provide tangible solutions to some of the most pressing challenges facing the world today.

*INFOFISH International 5/2011*

### ***Study: Implementing pole & line tuna fishing not easy***

As processors, retailers and consumers continue to evaluate the sustainability of fishing methods, the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) has published a new technical resource paper on pole and line caught tuna. Some of the study's findings are given below.

The major pole-and-line producers are Japan (about 125 000 mt of skipjack and yellowfin annually), Indonesia (100 000 mt) and the Maldives (100 000 mt). The world's production is about 400 000 mt annually, some of which is for domestic consumption. There are between 100 000 and 150 000 mt of pole-and-line caught skipjack and yellowfin on the international market. In the Pacific Islands, the

availability of bait, rather than tuna, has often been the resource factor limiting expansion of a pole-and-line tuna fishery. The large islands in the west of the Pacific Island region have the best potential for bait-fisheries for pole-and-line fishing and small islands in the east and atolls have the least potential.

Information from a company in the Solomon Islands shows high production costs and low productivity of pole-and-line fishing relative to that of purse seining. Historical information from pole-and-line fishing in PNG shows that the real price of tuna today is less than half the price of what it was during the height of the fishery 30 years ago. The main lesson appears to be that the pole-and-line development or revitalisation in the region is a very difficult task.

*INFOFISH International 6/2011*

### ***Study: MSC products secure price premium***

New research shows that UK retailers are achieving higher sales and a price premium of over 14% for products bearing the MSC eco-label, compared with their non-labelled equivalents. The study, published in the *Journal of Agricultural Economics* is statistically rigorous evidence that consumers value the positive environmental attributes of MSC-labelled products enough to pay a premium for them. Previous studies have analysed the factors which made it more likely that consumers might buy eco-labelled seafood products; but this is the first study to use price data to present objective verification of market benefits for suppliers using the MSC eco-label.

The study, carried out by Professor Cathy Roheim and Ph D candidate Julie Santos of the University of Rhode Island and Professor Frank Asche of the University of Stavanger examined scanner data for sales of 24 frozen pollock products in a selection of London metropolitan area supermarkets over a period of 65 weeks from 2007 to 2008. Twelve of those products displayed the MSC ecolabel. After adjusting for differences arising from other product attributes such as branding, product form and size, the study identified a price difference of 14.2 per cent between MSC-labelled and non-labelled pollock products. Sales of MSC-labelled products were also higher, at 3.3 million units, during the period than non-labelled products, at 3.03 million units.

*INFOFISH International 6/2011*

### **Technology for mackerel to spawn tuna**

Mackerel spawns tuna. It is a curious phenomenon that cannot happen in the natural environment, but researchers at Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology have succeeded in using mackerel to breed Atlantic bluefin tuna. In the wild, female tuna release hundreds of thousands of eggs each spawning season, but almost zero eggs reach maturity.

Enormous costs are needed to keep the tunas that become parents in captivity. If mackerel raised in captivity for about 12 months can be manipulated to lay tuna eggs, tuna fry could be acquired cheaply and abundantly. The technology could be used in aquaculture and, more importantly, if these fry were released back into the ocean, depleted wild tuna stocks could recover.

The stem cells inside the gonads differentiate into eggs and sperms. When a part of the tuna gonad cells is transplanted in the abdominal cavity of a juvenile mackerel whose immunity is not yet developed, that part enters into the juvenile's gonad and produces tuna eggs and sperms in large volumes. The cells are transplanted after sterility measures are taken, to ascertain that the mackerel does not produce mackerel eggs or sperm and can only produce tuna eggs or sperm henceforth. When the male and female mackerel find each other and spawn, they will generate tuna fry. Tuna are born in aquaria in which mackerels are kept. The advantage of this technology is that, it would become possible to have mackerel produce juvenile tuna on a 100% basis.

*INFOFISH International 6/2011*

### **Fishing company moves into internet sales**

Fishing company La Houle, one of the oldest trawler companies in Brittany, France, has branched into internet fish sales. Launched after two years of preparation, their <http://www.poissonfraiss.fr> website has been more successful than they had expected. La Houle is selling fish caught by its fleet of 11 trawlers and also buys fish locally to meet the website needs. People can order fish through the website, and if the order is placed before two in the afternoon, the customer has it the next morning.

The website offers range of fillets and seafood products that are vacuum-packed for despatch to customers. Most sales are not made locally in Brittany. The majority of sales are to inland areas, and it is a different business from the usual fish sales. For instance, there are instances when people in the US order from the company to send to friends in France as a present. The company promotes seasonal products and does not sell

any salmon or shrimp as those are not local species. This is the opposite of what supermarkets do and is what makes the company different, which is something consumers understand, says managing director Joseph Loussouam

The company operates responsible fishing and has taken steps to reduce discards, including voluntarily using 100mm mesh size for nephrops instead of the legal 80mm. Crews also keep all the garbage that comes up in the fishing gear - old nets, plastics and other rubbish - which is landed and disposed of ashore. Customers, in particular chefs from restaurants supplied by La Houle, are free to go to sea with the company's trawlers and they regularly take the opportunity to do so while staying in the apartment that the company has included in its newest buildings for such visitors.

*INFOFISH International 5/2011*

### **Vessel monitoring system**

*VLINK* enables fishers to send daily updates on catch reports and the position of their vessel at regular intervals throughout the day. *VLINK* is fully compliant with European regulations.

*VLINK* automatically sends the mandatory data to the Iridium satellite system which transmits it to a land receiving station. From here the data is sent to the fisheries monitoring centre. *VLINK* is an electronic transceiver which is installed on the exterior of the fishing vessels and is integrated to an onboard monitoring system, commonly known as the

"electronic logbook".

*(Kannad, France)*

### **Low cost outboard engines**

A new range of Yamabisi engines range from 2.5 to 40hp with more than 30 two-stroke and four-stroke models available. There is a big difference in price to the established brands and the Yamabisi outboard are reliable engines that can be bought new for roughly the same price as a good second-hand engine from one of the well-known makers.

*(Yamabisi, China)*

### **FAO TCP tuna longlining project launched**

The FAO TCP Project TCP/RAS/3302(D) on "Improving post-harvest practices and sustainable market development for longline fisheries for tuna and other larger pelagic fish species in the Indian Ocean Region ( India, Iran, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka)" was launched in Beruwala, Sri Lanka on 15 August 2011.

The project aims to assist participating countries to have stronger and coherent technical capabilities to enable them to exploit and market, in a sustainable manner, their substantial pelagic resources through improved and appropriate technology and practices. The launch was officiated by the Hon Dr Rajitha Senaratne, Minister of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Development, Sri Lanka.

The welcome address was given by Dr Muhammad Ayub, Director of INFOFISH, who stated that the launching of the project was timely in helping to reduce post-harvest losses. The project was then introduced by Dr I Karunasagar of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). He emphasized the project's goal of sustainable utilization for improving handling practices by the fishers during and after catch. In his inaugural address, the Hon Dr Rajitha Senaratne welcomed the project and emphasized its importance in helping to increase fish production and its value in Sri Lanka in the coming years. Present at the event were representatives from FAO, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DFAR) of Sri Lanka and INFOFISH, as well as members of the fishing community.

### **Marine Insurance Legislation (4<sup>th</sup> Edition)**

By Robert Merkin

It is difficult to believe that international marine insurance law changes as rapidly as it appears to. Given that this is the fourth edition of this notable legal text in 13 years it is clear, however, that this is the reality. There has been considerable change even since the last edition in 2005.

Whether this change arises from the inventiveness of the legal profession, or from real societal, political or industrial changes cannot really be debated here. The fact is change has occurred and ship owners and managers and their legal and insurance advisors must keep up with it. This all-encompassing new book is an essential text for anyone performing any of those roles.

Available from Lloyd's List Law, London, UK. Web: [www.informa.com](http://www.informa.com)

### **American Coastal Rescue**

*A Design History of Coastal Rescue Craft Used by the United States Life-Saving Service and the United States Coast Guard*

By William D. Wilkinson and Commander Timothy R. Dring, USNR (Retired)

Unlike most other marine rescue services around the world, the US Coast Guard, particularly in recent years, has enjoyed comparatively lavish budgets. This has enabled it to make dramatic improvements in the design, development, construction, numbers and crewing of its rescue craft.

A scholarly book that focuses on coastal craft, this gives very complete descriptions of the current fleet. These are enhanced by a very valuable CD Rom clearly showing their plans and specifications. As a very useful bonus, we are given a quite detailed historical background to both services and the various craft they have used since 1765. A very important historical and technical record of such vital craft.

Available from the University Press of Florida,

Gainesville, USA. Web: [www.upf.com](http://www.upf.com)

### **Guidelines for Green Certification of Freshwater Ornamental Fishes**

Every year, over 2 billion ornamental fishes from more than 120 countries belonging to about 1 800 species are traded globally. As the trade expands, issues such as quality, environmental concern and sustainability of the resource come to the fore. Ninety per cent of the freshwater ornamental fishes exported from India are wild-caught indigenous species while exotic species dominate the domestic aquarium trade. In 2008, the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) organised an international workshop on Green Certification of Ornamental Fish. A major recommendation of the workshop, which was attended by delegates from India and abroad, was under the auspices of MPEDA a task force be constituted to develop the guidelines and code of practices for green certification of freshwater ornamental fishes and their geographical indications (GI).

A measure of the success of any product in the market is its consumer acceptance. Assurance of certain standards of the product by a certification system adds value to the product and enhances its consumer preference. In this context, the concept of green certification for ornamental fish assumes importance. The book contains the guidelines prepared by the task force, which incorporate activities of all the stakeholders in the supply chain starting from the fish collector and fish farm to the exporters. The guidelines cover aspects such as collection from the wild, handling, transport, holding, breeding and culture facilities, conditioning for export, infrastructure and maintenance of records, to conform to a value chain system for delivering healthy ornamental fishes to the trade and the hobbyist.

Enquiries may be directed to :Director, Marine Products Export Development Authority, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India, Panampilly Nagar, Kochi-682 036, Kerala, India.

Fax: +91-4842313361;  
Email: [mpeda@mpeda.nic.in](mailto:mpeda@mpeda.nic.in)

**Sri Lanka: Fishers receive safety equipment**

Over 150 small-scale fishers in Sri Lanka's Puttalam district will benefit from safety equipment distributed by the FAO Regional Fisheries Livelihoods Programme for South and Southern Asia (RFLP). The equipment included GPS systems, life rings, first aid kits, life jackets and VHF radios which was handed over to fishers at a ceremony held on 22 July at the Coastal Environmental Centre in Kandakuliya, Puttalam

District.

In addition to providing safety equipment, RFLP has also delivered a comprehensive series of training sessions for over 800 small-scale fishers on topics including first aid, survival at sea, safe diving, fire fighting and out-board engine repair.

*RFLP – E-Newsletter, October 2011*

**Indonesia/USA : Funds for environmental development co-operation**

The US government recently pledged to set aside US\$450 million for environmental and climate change co-operation with Indonesia. The funds would be used to finance projects such as promotion of environmentally sustainable economic growth, protection of coastal communities and fisheries, strengthening climate change policy, conservation of tropical forests, the Low Emission Development

Strategies (SOLUSI) project and improving air quality.

On protecting coastal communities and fisheries, the US plans to provide at least US\$40 million over a period of five years to support the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security. In addition, bilateral support to improve fisheries and coastal management in Indonesia is expected to total US\$35 million over five years.

*INFOFISH Trade News, No.22/2011*

**Australia: World's largest marine preserve**

Australia moved to set up the world's biggest marine park to protect vast areas of the Coral Sea off the country's northeast coast and the site of fierce naval battles during World War II. The park would cover almost 1 million square km — an area the size of France and Germany combined — and would help protect fish, pristine coral reefs and nesting sites for sea birds and the green turtle. The environmental significance of the Coral Sea lies in its diverse array of coral reefs, sandy cays, deep sea plains and canyons, and contains more than 20 outstanding examples of isolated tropical

reefs, sandy cays and islands, says Environment Minister Tony Burke.

The new park would also cover ships sunk in the Battle of the Coral Sea, a series of naval engagements between Japanese, American and Australian forces in 1942, considered the world's first aircraft carrier battle. The government will finalize what limits will be imposed on the Coral Sea marine park, which will be within Australia's economic zone.

*Samudra News Alerts 2 December 2011*

**Chile: Fisheries landings reached 2.8 million**

According to the latest Report of Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector from the Chilean Under-Secretary of Fisheries, (Subpesca), the wild fisheries sector contributed 2.8 million mt between January and September of 2011 while aquaculture harvests reached 515 100mt. Majority (60.8%) of landings was composed of pelagic resources. Anchovy, sardine and horse mackerel accounted for 33.9%, 22.5% and 7.5% of landings in the first nine months of 2011. As to demersal catches in the first nine months of 2011, hake totaled 14 124 mt in the south, 17.6% lower than that recorded in the same period in 2010 (17 14 mt). The main landings were from the industrial fleet with 8 700 mt while artisanal vessels landed 5 500 mt.

1395 mt, last year (52.9% down).

Likewise Chile's National Marine Fisheries Service, (*Sernapesca*) reported that aquaculture harvests in the first eight months of this year amounted to 465,300 mt, representing a rise of 85% over the same period in 2010 when 428,900 mt were harvested. The main produce were mussels, Atlantic salmon, rainbow trout and Pacific salmon, which accounted for 47.9%, 24.4%, 17.4% and 6.8% of total harvest respectively. Mussels totaled 223 000 mt, 19.8% over the same period in 2010.

The Atlantic salmon harvest reached 113 400 mt, 48.4% more than the total volume Jan-August 2010. Rainbow trout harvests totalled 80 770 mt, 38.7% less than the 131 820 mt of the same period a year ago. Finally the Pacific salmon harvest totaled 31 650 mt in the nine months of 2011, which is 51.2% more than the amount accumulated in the same period in 2010.

*INFOFISH Trade News, No.22/2011*

### ***Sri Lanka: Thai vessels for deep sea tuna fishing***

The Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development Ministry will import over 50 vessels from Thailand for deep sea tuna fishing. The vessels will arrive by the end of this year. Minister Dr Rajitha Senaratne said that the number of fishing vessels in the country is not sufficient to fulfill the international demand for Sri Lankan fish products.

Research conducted by Sri Lankan universities has revealed that the Fisheries Ministry is the third most efficient ministry in the country, second to the Defence Ministry and the Economic Development Ministry, Senaratne said. The fishery industry has shown a significant rise in the last six months of 2011, the minister said.

*INFOFISH International 6/2011*

### ***Bangladesh: Hilsa fishing ban observed***

An 11-day ban on catching hilsa fish was observed across Bangladesh from 6-16 October. This period is noted as the main hilsa breeding season by the fisheries ministry. Transport, sale and stock of hilsa are also prohibited during the period. The programme aims to protect hilsa juveniles (*jatka*) less than 23 cm in length. *Jatka* conservation project director Jahid Habib said that 7 000 km<sup>2</sup> in seven coastal districts have been marked as the key breeding grounds of hilsa.

Earlier, in line with the fisheries law of 1985, the ban was imposed from 14-24 October every year. However, according to the lunar calendar, the new moon did not occur during this period. The ministry moved to amend the clause in the law recently and has formulated a new draft law; the ban was implemented this year in line with the draft law. A production target of 0.36 million mt has been set for this fishing season. In the last fiscal year, hilsa production reached 0.34 million mt.

*INFOFISH International 6/2011*

### ***Vietnam :SSB radios for fishing vessels***

A total 7 000 Single Side Band (SSB) radios were provided to fishers in 27 coastal provinces and cities of Vietnam before the cyclone season this year, announced the Directorate of Fisheries (D-Fish). SSB radios, also called standby receivers, allow fishers to get weather forecasts, fishing ground information, etc while they are at sea. The receivers can be automatically activated with "wake-up" signals transmitted from shore stations in case of storm or

accident warnings.

Granting SSB radios to fishers is a government assistance programme to help improve fishers' safety during fishing operations at sea and reduce the impact of natural disasters. It is expected that most of the fishing boats in Vietnam will be equipped with SSB by the end of the programme.

*INFOFISH International 6/2011*

### ***Japan: The tsunami – counting the cost***

The fisheries industry in Japan was severely affected by the earthquake and massive tsunami in March. The earthquake of magnitude 9.0 occurred at 14:46 JST Friday, 11 March 2011 with epicentre located at 24 km depth 130 km off the Pacific coast of Tohoku region, from Iwate to Ibaraki Prefectures (130 km east-southeast of Oshika Peninsula). The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has revealed the details of the damage to the fisheries and aquaculture sector in their website (<http://www.maff.go.jp/e/index.html>).

Miyagi, Fukushima Ibaraki, Chiba, Tokyo, Niigata, Kanagawa, Shizuoka, Aichi, Mie, Wakayama, Tokushima, Kochi, Oita, Miyazaki, Kagoshima and Okinawa) were affected by the tsunami. Vessels registered in Toyama, Ishikawa and Tottori were also damaged while moored in the disaster area. 25 008 fishing vessels in 319 fishing harbours and 1 625 common facilities were damaged. Total damage to fisheries and aquaculture is estimated at JPY\* 1 245 billion.

\*US\$ 1 = JPY 76.7 approx

Fisheries and aquaculture in 14 prefectures (Iwate,

*INFOFISH International 6/2011*

### ***China/ Russia :Joint fish resource monitoring project launched***

A joint fish resource monitoring project featuring the participation of Chinese and Russian scientists has been launched on a Sino-Russian cross-border lake, according to authorities from the Xingkai Lake Nature Reserve in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province. Six new species of fish have been discovered living in

Xingkai Lake, according to Shang Erzeng, the deputy head of the reserve.

Located on the northeast Sino-Russian border, Xingkai Lake is well-known for its abundant biodiversity and complex ecosystem. It is a major habitat for migratory birds in the Asia-Pacific region.

*INFOFISH International 6/2011*

**February 2012****11th Annual Salmon Showhow**

1 February, Norresunday, Denmark.  
 Information: Mr Michael Hjortshoj, Marketing  
 Manager, Marel Salmon.  
 Phone: +45-98-921511; Fax: +45-98-921101  
 Email: salmonshowhow@marel.com  
 Website: www.marel.com/salmonshowhow

**March 2012****International Boston Seafood Show 2012**

11-13 March, Boston USA.  
 Information: Diversified Business Communications,  
 121, Free Street, PO Box 7437, Portland, ME 04112-  
 7437, USA.  
 Tel: 1-207-8425504, Fax: 1-207-845505  
 Email: food@divcom.com  
 Website: www.bostonseafood.com

**April 2012****Seoul Seafood Show 2012**

19-21, Seoul, South Korea.

Information: Mr KH Lee, Secretariat B2Expo Co. Ltd,  
 Koreo.  
 Tel: +82-2-6000800, Fax: +82-2-60002805  
 Email: khlee@b2expo.org  
 Website: www.seoulseafood.com

**May 2012****TUNA 2012 Bangkok**

12th INFOFISH World Trade Tuna Conference &  
 Exhibition  
 23-25 May, 2012, Shangri-La Hotel, Bangkok,  
 Thailand.

Information: INFOFISH - Tuna 2012  
 Tel: 603-20783466  
 Fax: 603-20786804  
 Email: info@infofish.org  
 Website: www.infofish.org

---

## The Fishing Technology Digest for Asia Pacific

is now on-line at our website <http://www.infofish.org>  
 Please visit the website for latest updates.

---

### INFOFISH

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION FOR MARKETING INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICES FOR FISHERY PRODUCTS IN THE ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION.

Here is how INFOFISH helps:

- providing technical advisory services on all phases of harvesting, handling, processing of fish, aquaculture and marketing of fishery products
- offering you marketing links to and from the largest fish producing area in the world
- assisting the day-to-day fish trade by identifying new marketing opportunities for companies in the Asia-Pacific region and new sources for supply importers
- offering technical and sales support services through informative publications
  - i) INFOFISH Trade News
  - ii) INFOFISH International
  - iii) Special studies
- offering training, consultancy services and conferences, seminars & workshops

The next issue of INFOFISH Fishing Technology Digest will be distributed in **April, 2012**. Please forward any information you may wish to have disseminated through this digest to: **The Editor, INFOFISH Fishing Technology Digest, P.O. Box 10899, 50728, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.**  
 Tel: 603-20783466, Fax: 603-20786804, E. Mail: [info@infofish.org](mailto:info@infofish.org)  
 Editor: Anil Kumar P- INFOFISH, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia