

In the field of technological research, a great mass of information has been assembled on fish production and processing covering the handling of fish aboard the boat or vessel; the preparation of fish for market by icing, freezing, salting, drying, canning, etc.; and the warehousing, storage and transport of fishery products. Much work has also been undertaken in fishery by-products, such as fish meal and oil and in the development of mechanical devices for their preparation. While much still remains to be accomplished in this field, it is believed that existing knowledge is far in advance of practical application. FAO should, therefore, direct its efforts towards the adoption of these improved methods and the making available of up-to-date information to Member Nations. Further, FAO might sponsor periodic international conferences of fishery technologists to discuss problems arising in the various countries. Since existing research facilities are inadequate, FAO might encourage through co-operation with the interested international, national or private bodies, further development of existing research centres and the establishment of new centres in the major producing regions and in areas where fisheries might be more fully developed.

Very little work has been done in the fields of sociological and economic research in so far as the fishery is concerned. Since, in many instances, fishermen and shore workers are in the low income group of labour, more attention should be given to helping them improve their general well-being. FAO can assist in this connection through co-operation with such international bodies as those concerned with labour, health and education, to encourage the initiation of studies on such subjects as the relation of fishery methods to production and employment, to the general well-being and public health, to occupational hazards, to diseases, and to opportunity for education and community life. FAO might also encourage studies in the field of fishery economics which should extend not only to the economics of production, processing and distribution, but also to consumption.

Facilities for the training of fishery personnel in all phases of production, processing and distribution are at present very limited. Improvement of education relating to fisheries and fishery industries is important to the full development of resources. FAO should, therefore, encourage the establishment of fishery schools and suitable fishery courses at appropriate institutions.

The problem of conservation is becoming of more and more importance, and although it is considered preferable for any international action for conservation and management to be established on a regional basis, the free interchange of ideas and information between such regional authorities will assist in bringing about a wider degree of co-ordination and interest. FAO should stimulate interest in research in the field of conservation and render all possible support to the development of international programs designed to bring about the proper management of fishery resources. Since the full use of fishery resources depends to a large degree on the development of fishery techniques best adapted to the different conditions, FAO might accelerate progress by encouraging the full exchange of information and the practical demonstration of modern fishing vessels and gear. Also, in the field of conservation and full use of resources, FAO should encourage the adoption of suitable techniques of fish culture wherever facilities and conditions for the propagation of fish render such programs practical.

Turning to the field of processing, marketing and distribution of fishery products, FAO can lend assistance to Member Nations by assembling information on developments in this field and making it available to all other nations. In the case of those