

**DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES MALAYSIA  
“TRAINING AND EXTENSION PROGRAMS”**

by

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**1. NATIONAL POLICY AND FISHERIES SECTOR DEVELOPMENT  
PRIORITY**

**1.1 National Agriculture Policy (1992-2010)**

Marine fisheries, in particular deep sea fishing, aquaculture and inland fisheries will be encouraged and supported with adequate incentives, infrastructure and programme. The development of the industry will focus on the future expansion of fresh and processed products including in support of the development of an integrated and viable fishery resource-based manufacturing activity. These products will cater for the expanding local and foreign markets. *The exploitation of fisheries resource will be undertaken on a sustainable basis.*

**1.2 Department of Fisheries Malaysia**

**1.2.1 Vision**

To bring about changes to the national fisheries sector so that it is operating commercially, modern, productive and *to ensure a sustainable fisheries resources to meet the national needed.*

**1.2.2 Objectives**

The Fisheries Department is responsible for the overall development and management of the fisheries and matters related to them. The primary objectives of the department are as follows:-

- To increase national fish production.
- To manage fisheries resources on a sustainable basis.
- To increase deep sea fishing entrepreneurship.
- To speed up aquaculture development.
- To maximize income from the fishing industry.

### 1.2.3 Functions

- To formulate policies and strategies for the management and development of the national fishery sector.
- To enforce the Fisheries Act 1995 and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) Act 1984.
- To manage and conserve fishery resources on a sustainable basis.
- To carry out fishery research.
- To provide training to fishery entrepreneurs.
- To provide extension service on the fishery industry.
- To develop and manage aquaculture and inland fishery.
- To develop and manage Marine Park and recreational fishery.
- To carry out fish health management and quarantine.
- To provide basic fishery data.
- To prescribe standards and inspect fishery products.
- To control the export and import of fishery produce.
- To monitor pollution of the fishery waters.

## 2. GENERAL OVERVIEW

The fisheries sector in Malaysia is significant and plays an important role in the national economy. The fishing industry in Malaysia can be divided into three main sub-sectors, namely, aquaculture, inshore fishery and offshore fishery. Aquaculture covers all activities of pond/cage culture, prawn culture, collection of cockles from natural or artificial beds, fishing of fish and prawn in public water bodies and old-mining pools. The coastal fishery covers coastal waters up to 30 nautical miles offshore, while the offshore covers water beyond 30 nautical miles to the outer limit of EEZ.

In 1995<sup>1)</sup> the fish production was estimated at 1,226,830 tonnes valued at RM3, 102 million. This represents an increase of 3.8% compared to the previous year.

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<sup>1)</sup> Department of Fisheries Malaysia(1996); **Annual Report 1995**; Ampang Press Sdn.Bhd.

Marine capture fisheries accounted for nearly 90% of total production in the country and the balance came from aquaculture production. The bulk of the fish production was consumed locally though a sizable quantity was exported. The total value of production contributed about 1.5% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). As a source of employment, the capture fishery had directed absorbed about 1.3% of the nation's manpower.

### **3. ISSUES WITH RESPECT TO MARINE CAPTURE FISHERY**

The most common and potentially important issues facing marine capture fishery in Malaysia are as follows:-

- Overfishing particularly the inshore areas by both licensed and illegal fishermen
- Competition between traditional and commercial fisheries for fishing grounds.
- Competition for the use of the coastal zone for incompatible purposes.
- Increase of fishing effort because of more efficient technology.
- Application of destructive fishing gear and methods.
- Impact of pollution as well as destruction of swamping/mangrove areas.

### **4. FISHERIES DEPARTMENT IN RELATION TO THE COMMON ISSUES**

The Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Agriculture administers, regulates and has the responsibility for all fisheries activities including to minimize or stabilize the above issues to ensure that a healthy industry is maintained. The department has the following functional divisions to carry out the duties as stated:-

- Director General of Fisheries
- Deputy Director General
- Legislative Unit
- Administration & Finance
- Corporate Planning
- Resource Management & Protection

- Research
- Marine Fisheries Resource Development & Management Department (MFRDMD)
- Engineering
- Extension

Reduce fishing effort, protection of the marine resources and rehabilitation of the marine environment are pointed out as part of the department strategies in the context of sustainable fishing in Malaysia. Various divisions (in the department ) were play their roles significantly including Extension Division through Marine Extension Unit.

## **5. MARINE EXTENSION PROGRAMMES**

Generally, the objective of marine extension programmes is to enable fishery operators to understand, realize and play their roles in the process of development such that they thoroughly involve themselves in the fisheries activity they are engaged in. The services give emphasis to the provision of both technical and general education services to the fisheries industry. It also covers resource based fisheries management, community and market based fisheries management. It involves aspects of knowledge, skill, technology and attitude owner of the boats, operators and fishermen. This is achieved through the implementation of 4 main programmes. The 4 Programmes are:-

- Upgrading of fishery skills - to upgrade the target groups' technical skills.
- Extension of fishery technology - to introduce new ideas and technology to the target group and industry.
- Extension programme on fishery development - to generate awareness of the opportunities available and provide guidance and encouragement to take advantage of it as a group.
- Extension Programme on fishery management - to generate awareness, interest and participation among the target group in fisheries resource management.

The Marine Extension Programme offered can be categorised as follow:-

### **5.1 Training**

- To produce skilled fishermen in line with the needs of the fishing industry.

- To provide training for fishermen to upgrade their technical capabilities in various aspects of the fishing industry.
- To provide training for staff of the Department of Fisheries to enable them to provide better services to the industry.

Knowledge and skills are the key factors in any occupation. Various approaches and methods of training have been formulated either on a formal basis or otherwise. The Department of Fisheries offers a number of training programmes in the field of marine fisheries, such as Certificate of Competency as Fishing Skipper, Certificate of Competency as Engine Driver, Deep-Sea Dockhands Course, Helmsman Course, Navigation Module, Engine Maintenance Module, Entrepreneurship and processing of Fish Jelly Products Module, Fish Inspection and Quality Assurance Module, Trawl Net Construction and Rigging Module.

Training programmes were conducted either at Fisheries Training Institute of Malaysia, Terengganu or nine other Extension Centers through-out the country.

## **5.2 Study Tours**

Besides the courses provided as stated before, the Department of Fisheries through Marine Extension Unit sponsors study tours both locally and abroad for fisheries operators. These visits are aimed towards the improving of entrepreneurial values, knowledge, technology transfer, trade relationships and market expansion. Through this programme it is hoped that the fisheries operators will be able to improve their occupational skills, more rationale in terms of fisheries resource exploitation, resource utilization and other matter which is consider as responsible fishing activities.

## **5.3 Development of Fisheries Technology**

The developments and changes in a particular fishery technology are an ongoing process. The department of Fisheries takes the initiative in the development and promotion of a particular technology. A particular technology is introduced through a number of extension activities that give the opportunity to the fishery operators to get exposure. Technical advisory services coupled with demonstration are given to jintrested operators who are desirous of obtaining further information regarding the said technology. Through trials and demonstrations, the fishery operator has the opportunity to personally observe and try the said technology prior to adopting it for use. Among the equipment and techniques introduced are Echo Sounder, Sonar, GPS, Bottom Sonar, Net Hauler, Traps for Grouper Fries, Cockle Grader, Crab Stakes, mini Power Block, Radio Communication and other Equipment for processing of the fishery products.

## 5.4 Publication and Distribution of Fisheries Information

The Department of Fisheries publishes printed materials and also provides audio visual materials that contain general and technical information pertaining to fisheries. The publications are as follows:-

- Fisheries Bulletin containing results of fisheries research.
- Brochures and pamphlet containing general information on fisheries.
- Handbooks containing specific guidelines of fisheries projects.
- Fisheries news containing information on current activities.
- Fisheries posters.

## 6. CONCLUSION

a) The underlining thrust in the Marine Extension activity is to assist such target groups in obtaining knowledge, skills and adopt a positive attitude toward their work. Through the various programmes implemented, awareness and interest of those target groups to change their way of lives has gradually improve. Some favourable results have been achieve. They are as follows:

- The fishery entrepreneurs became more aware of the advantages to cooperate and work as a group.
- Participation of women in extension activities especially in the field of fish processing has increase.
- Active involvement by local leaders in supporting the fishermen groups.
- New socio-economic projects such as *guided projects* and *adopted projects* were carried out which included fish processing, engine maintenance, boat building and repairs and recreational fishing.

b) Subjects pertaining to resource, management, licensing, pollution safety at sea, and some of the common issues with respect to marine capture fishery as stated in *paragraph 3* were among the important topics that interest the group at every assimilation forum and dialogue. However, the fishermen and most of the target group willingly cooperated with the department in overcoming these issues.

c) In order to improve fishery community participation in all aspects of fisheries management including responsible fishing, training and extension programmes should be included and play very important roles in the overall department programmes.