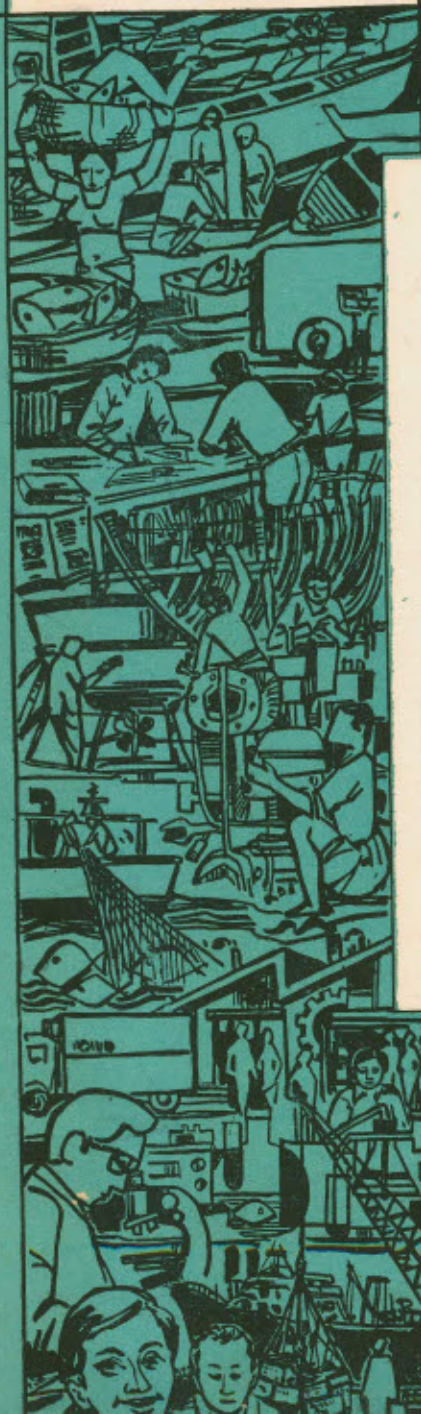




Fish Technology newsletter

Vol. III No. 12

APRIL-JUNE 1984



The ICAR Pavilion at the Cochin '84 Exhibition

CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF FISHERIES TECHNOLOGY

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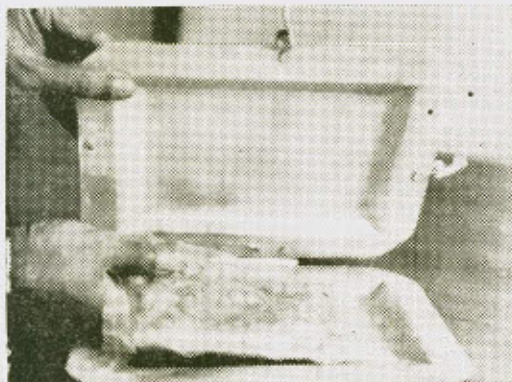
Retortable Flexible Package for Heat Processed Prawns in Brine from Indigenous Synthetic Films

Exports of canned products from India reached a peak in the year 1973 being 2199 tonnes worth Rs. 5.24 crores. Thereafter, there was a drastic decline. The main reason for this has been the soaring prices of the imported tin sheets used for the production of cans. There was therefore,

an urgent need for developing a less costly retortable package for the heat processed prawns canned in brine, which has got the highest potential for export.

The Central Institute of Fisheries Technology has succeeded in packing prawn in

pouches of 250 gauge polypropylene film and heat processing, after experimenting with many other flexible packages available indigenously. After processing, the pouches are packed again in pouches of metallised polyester film. A modified method involving compressed air and steam has



Blanched prawns in brine sealed in polypropylene pouch being placed in pouch carrier for retorting

been devised for processing to avoid bursting of the pouches. A new retort has been designed for controlled entry of steam, compressed air and cold water during cooling. Pouch carriers have also been specially designed for the purpose. The approximate cost of this



Retorted polypropylene pouch taken out from the carrier and packed in metallised Polyester pouch

combination package works out to 60 paise, compared to Rs 1.25 for a SR lacquered 301 x 206 (8 oz) tin can. Even though the product was bacteriologically sound for quite long periods, organoleptically the heat processed prawns showed a restricted shelf-life of 90

days. Further improvement in this line is expected to be achieved by vacuum sealing and attempts are being made to reduce further the packaging cost. Pilot plant scale production is also to be taken up soon.



[K. P. Antony, T. K. Sreenivasa Gopal, P. A. Perigreen, M. Arul James & T. K. Govindan]