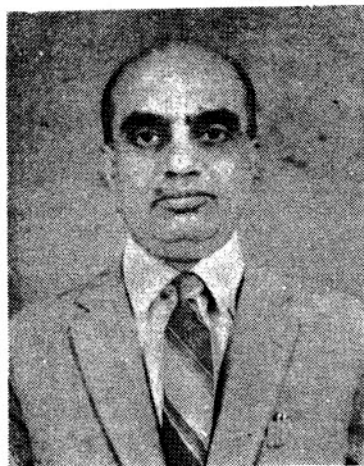


GUJARAT MARCHES AHEAD

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Gujarat State has a coast line of 1663 Kms. (1031 miles), about one-third the coast line of India, and span of 67,340 Sq. Km. (26,000 Sq. miles) of excellent fishable area. She has also vast potential for development of fresh water fisheries. South Gujarat has major river systems like Mahi, Narmada and Tapi, which are being impounded for Irrigation and Power. Big artificial lakes are being formed affording excellent opportunities for stocking and exploitation.

The total production of fish was hardly 50,000 Tonnes in 1956. It has nearly trebled during the past 15 years, and the total production during 1969 was 1,30,000 tonnes. Gujarat hopes to step up the production of fish to 2,50,000 tonnes by the end of the IVth plan, which from the present tempo of development, is well within her reach.

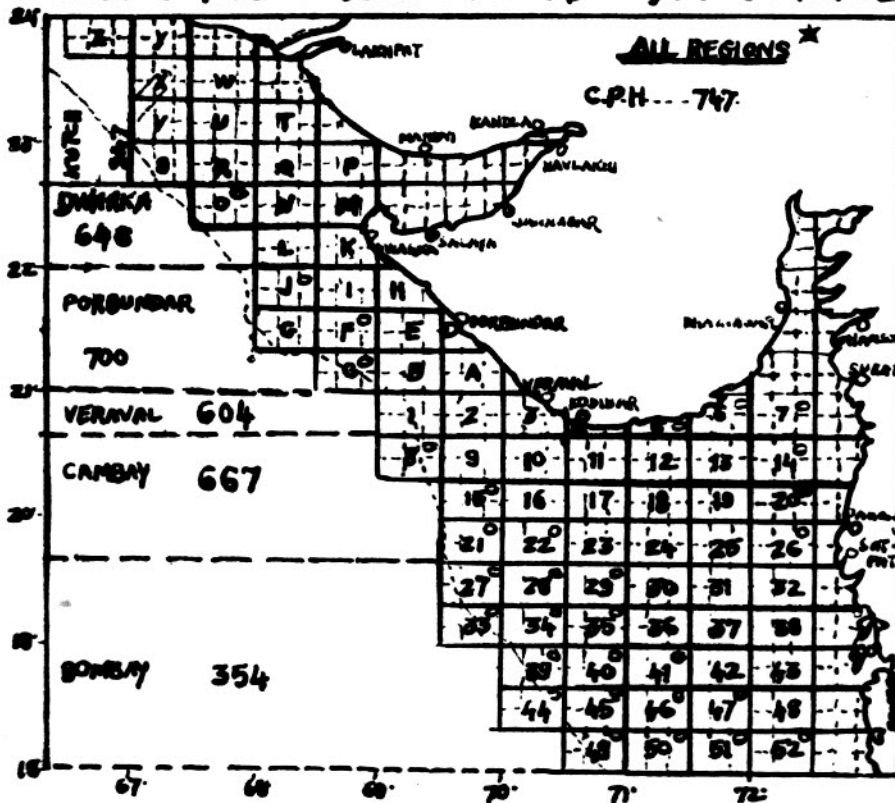
There are approximately 1500 mechanised crafts ranging in size from 30 feet to 50 feet fitted with inboard engines from 30 H. P. to 100 H. P. Within the past 5 years, nearly 100 miniature

trawlers have been built. These trawlers have gallows and winches fitted on deck, and have very low free-board. Because of the low free-board, these boats can easily switch over to gill netting, when the gill net catches are good. They can even carry out long line fishing. Strictly speaking these must be styled as multipurpose boats.

The important commercial varieties of fish are Pomfret, Hilsa, Chol, Dara, Karkara, Wam and Bombay duck. Bombay duck ranks first as far as the quantity landed. Annually between 20,000 to 25,000 Tonnes of Bombay duck are landed in the three important centres, Jaffrabad, Rajpura and Nawabunder. The entire quantity is sun dried. They are dried over ropes which are strung parallel. The Bombay duck season lasts for hardly four months from October to January. Because of the extremely short season, no other means of preservation like chilling, freezing or canning has yet been attempted on a commercial scale, though there are excellent possibilities. The

DEMERSAL FISH DISTRIBUTION IN NORTH WESTERN DIVISION OF INDIA

1. Annual regional average catch/hour in Kg. based on commercial operations of bull trawlers of Bombay base for 1957-62



Bombay duck muscle has a flavour of its own, which is very much relished by gourmets. It has practically nil fat. The bones are extremely fragile and can be easily minced. There is very good scope for diverting the entire quantity of this valuable fish into more lucrative channels of consumption in fresh condition, as chilled or frozen fish, canned or as paste. This holds out great promise for export as well.

The C. I. F. T., Sub-station, since its inception in 1962 at Veraval, has carried

out extensive researches on various aspects of handling, processing and preservation of this valuable fishery. If proper care is taken right from the time of hauling, the fish can be preserved in ice in excellent condition for nearly five days and can be diverted to the interior markets. An excellent canned paste having good culinary properties relished by gourmets has been worked out and perfected. Work on radurisation also has been carried out, and it holds out very great promise.

No other maritime State abounds in quality prime fish as Gujarat. This is one reason why, Gujarat fishermen are very prosperous. Pomfret, Hilsa, Ghol, Dara and Wam have got excellent markets in Bombay and other big cities like Ahmedabad, Baroda, Delhi and Calcutta.

Till the inception of this Sub-station, Gujarat was mainly depending upon Bombay for marketing her catches. Naturally the price realised for the prime quality fishes depended upon the fluctuation of the Bombay market. With the advent of this sub-station, considerable improvements in the methods of handling, processing and preservation have been effected, which the trade has readily adopted. The cheap insulated ply-wood container designed by this Sub-station has revolutionised the marketing of fish in this area. Gujarat fish is now finding its way to far off destinations like Delhi, Chandigarh, Calcutta and Gauhati, in excellent condition. Gourmets are relishing sea-fresh fish and a great demand for the marine catches have been created in the interior markets. Within the past decade, there has been considerable diversion of fish to the interior markets, which constitutes nearly 30% of the present landings. Formerly hardly 10% of the landing used to go to the interior markets and the rest to Bombay. This trend is continuing.

After the advent of this Sub-station, the vast potentialities for developing Prawn and Lobster fisheries have been thoroughly investigated and the results passed on to the enterprising fishermen and merchants. Extensive work on trawling, standardisation of trawl gear

for small powered boats, methods of handling, processing and preservation of the catch were worked out and passed on to the fishermen.

To-day there are nearly 100 trawlers operating all along the Saurashtra Coast. There was hardly one when this Sub-station came into existence. These trawlers are reaping very good harvests. Their average daily catch ranges from 500 Kgs. to 1,500 Kgs. Though the major portion constitutes Dhoma (Jew fish) fairly good quantities of Prawns, Lobster and other quality fishes like Wam, Dara and Ghol are landed.

Judging from the results of the operation of these boats during the past two seasons, they have an annual gross income of Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 40,000. After deducting all expenditure by way of fuel, crew wages, maintenance, depreciation, repayment of loan etc; the owner of the boat easily makes between Rs. 7,000 to Rs. 10,000 per annum, which is a very good return.

The sudden spurt in trawling has opened out tremendous possibilities. There is now very good scope for enterprising entrepreneurs, to invest their capital, on the most modern, freezing, canning and fish meal factories. Veraval has an excellent fisheries harbour, the only one of its kind in the whole of India, which has all shore facilities like electricity and water. Veraval is also a Rail Road terminus from where fish can easily be moved to Bombay and other interior markets. Carrier launches ply regularly between Veraval and Bombay, carrying iced fish, and it takes hardly 30 hours for the boats to reach Bombay. Rich fishing grounds lie between the two big Gulfs, the Gulf of Cambay and the Gulf of Kutch. The area is

very rich for trawling, gill netting and long lining. Export of frozen products right from Veraval itself will commence pretty soon. Veraval lies in the direct route between Karachi and Bombay and foreign lines will readily call at Veraval if adequate quantity of frozen goods are offered.

One most modern and up-to-date factory has already gone into production.

This factory has 500 Tonnes frozen storage, 200 Tonnes Chill Storage, Four plate Freezers and 5 Tonnes freezing capacity per day.

Here is a call to enterprising entrepreneurs. Make haste. Already Cochin and Bombay are over crowded and there is cut-throat competition for space, raw material, water and electricity. Spread out your activities and reap rich harvests and rich profits.



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