

Co-operation For Fishermen

CO-OPERATION FOR FISHERMEN is the title of a book published recently by the International Co-operative Alliance, that all concerned with forming and operating fishermen's co-operatives will find a most useful work of reference. It is reviewed below by . . .

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THIS study, believed to be the first of its kind to deal comprehensively with the various aspects of co-operative organization and management in fisheries, was commissioned by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. It has been published by the International Co-operative Alliance.

The book is based to a large extent on the working papers and proceedings of the Technical Meeting on Fishery Co-operatives held in Naples from May 12-21, 1959, under the joint sponsorship of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Labour Office. The material has been supplemented by the wide knowledge and experience of co-operative organizations of many kinds and many countries possessed by the author, Miss Margaret Digby, O.B.E., who is Secretary of the Plunkett Foundation for Co-operative Studies, London, and FAO Consultant on Agricultural Co-operation.

Co-operation For Fishermen, which is available in English, French and Spanish, will be a most useful reference book for all concerned with forming and operating fishermen's co-operatives.

The sub-chapter on the operating problems of marketing co-operatives contains many valuable hints on the preliminary investigations that should be made, and the services to provide initially. The author emphasizes that there will be circumstances in which it will be found inadvisable to start a fish marketing co-operative. Even the existence of a need for a service which a co-operative could provide may not justify formative action.

For those who do start, the author has much practical advice on operation and the problems that arise, and at the end of the first chapter gives an excellent summary of the conditions needed for success. In later chapters the author emphasizes the value of inter-co-operative action where successful primary societies were established.

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Frozen tuna ready for shipment by the Fishermen's Co-operative Association of Ponape, in the United States Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Set up in May 1959, the Association has made excellent progress.



In a Foreword, the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization points out that, nowadays, much greater attention is being given to the more effective utilization of the world's fishery resources, particularly where nutritional levels are inadequate and there is great pressure on land.

In the first chapter the author indicates the many possible types of fisheries co-operatives available to fishermen who seek improvement in their living standards, increased production and less waste. In what follows the author particularly has in mind the smaller type of fish co-operative, especially in under-developed countries, though she does point out that, in many cases, the new organization will continue to grow.

The value of the work as a reference book is enhanced by the numerous illustrations of how particular problems have been handled in countries throughout the world.

In the long chapter dealing with management, marketing is not the only form of co-operative action for fishermen covered. Other sub-chapters examine the opportunities for, and the problems of, supply co-operatives, thrift and credit societies for fishermen, insurance and miscellaneous services. Committees and staffs, and financial structure and operation, are covered in other sub-chapters, which contain useful advice on such matters as pre-requisites to successful starting, how to hold members' interest at meetings, problems in the selection of a manager, the committee-manager re-

lationship, sources of finance including loan moneys, and many more.

One chapter analyses the ways in which a government can assist the development of fisheries co-operatives. At the same time, the author points out certain disadvantages and dangers of government intervention. This setting out of the pros and cons of a course of action is standard throughout the book.

Another chapter indicates the various ways, and current limitations, in which educational programmes can be carried out for fisheries co-operatives. Canada and Japan are quoted as leaders in this field.

Fishermen's co-operatives are not numerous in the Pacific. But interest is growing, and the collation of the experience of other countries in *Co-operation For Fishermen* should prove most timely.

U.S. Trust Territory To Hold Second Co-operatives Seminar

The organization of producer co-operatives will be the main topic for discussion at the Second Co-operatives Seminar organized by the United States Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. It will be held at Saipan from October 8-22.

The administrators of the seven districts comprising the Trust Territory have each been invited to send two delegates. Mr. R. H. Boyan, SPC co-operatives specialist, will be a senior director and principal instructor at the Seminar.