

Fisheries Economy

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References

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- **An introduction to the economics of fisheries management**, W.C. MacKenzie, 1992.

The Primary Fishing Industry

- The primary division of the commercial fisheries consists of all enterprises engaged in the harvesting of fishery resources. Organization varies widely, in accordance with (a) historical evolution, (b) the socio-economic environment, and (c) national developmental policy. In capitalist (market) and mixed economies, for example, fishing enterprises generally are privately owned and operated. Typically they exhibit enormous heterogeneity in form, size (extent of investment and numbers employed), type of equipment and pursuit (species caught, grounds fished and so on).

- A traditional feature of organization, typical of commercial fishing enterprises in many parts of the world, is remuneration of crew members (as co-venturers with the owner) on the basis of individual shares in the proceeds of the catch. Sharing formulae usually vary with scale of enterprise, i.e. the larger the investment, the lower the labour share proportionately.

- With unionization, arrangements of this kind are being replaced by basic rates of pay, e.g. per trip or per season, plus productivity bonuses. Where port markets function effectively, e.g. when landings are sold at auction, fishing enterprises are predominantly independent, i.e. untied to processing or trading entities. In other circumstances, groups of such enterprises may form a producers' co-operative to engage in processing and product marketing or a processing and/or trading company may acquire a fishing fleet.

- In traditional, e.g. tribal, societies, fishing often is a communal affair, carried out for subsistence or commercial purposes or both. One finds a somewhat similar arrangement, i.e. the production brigade, in certain developing countries that have adopted a centrally directed economy.

- More commonly, perhaps, state enterprises (resembling, in organization, the larger integrated fishing enterprises of market economies) predominate in the fisheries of socialist countries. Theoretically, when operating within national zones of jurisdiction, these latter should not be subject to the blight, described below, affecting enterprises that operate in a competitive milieu. They might well be so affected, however, as participants in international fisheries where a free-for-all prevails.

