

TRAINING OF FISHERMEN*

by

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ABSTRACT

Briefly describes Government action to initiate and develop extension services and training for fishermen, through subsidies and the establishment of suitable training institutions, together with the appointment of specially trained officers and describes the duties and distribution of such staff.

ON-THE-SPOT TRAINING

Since the enforcement of the Promotion Law for Pelagic Fisheries of 1898, the Japanese Government has directed its efforts to the production of technicians who work on board fishing boats through on-the-spot training with promotional subsidies.

In the first stage, technical training was conducted exclusively for those fishery technicians, captains and chief engineers who were going on board pelagic fishing boats. But later, the coverage of training was gradually expanded and began to include radio operators and technicians who work on board off-shore and coastal fishing boats.

From 1958, as a part of the improvement and extension program of fishing industry and for the purposes of encouraging the organization of fisheries improvement and research bodies which promote fishermen's voluntary research activities, governmental subsidies came to be given for their study meetings and inspection tours to advanced places.

In 1959, the above-mentioned two activities were consolidated into a project for promoting the practical activity of young generation in fishing villages, by which the on-the-spot training of fishermen has come to be well-organized.

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Keeping abreast with the latest developments in fishery techniques and rapid growth of national economy, the education of fishermen has gained in importance more than ever. In 1965, younger generation classes for the purpose of training future generations and an employment turnover consulting service have been established, and at the same time as a means of training young fishermen, a number of courses of subjects have come to be taught on a selective system.

The principal means of training include conferences for training the younger generation in fishing villages, consultation for guidance, travelling advisers, meetings presenting operation results, training meetings in fishery techniques (production and management techniques for group consultants), younger generation classes, introduction of techniques developed in advanced areas (visits to advanced areas and tests of newly introduced techniques), training meetings of fishing boat techniques (operation techniques, special operation techniques, medical services) and radio techniques training meetings.

Of these means, training in radio techniques is conducted by the National Fishery Radio Association, while others are conducted by prefectural government with national subsidies.

PERMANENT TRAINING CENTERS

There is no permanent training center established by the Government, but the Aomori Prefecture conducts a fishermen's training center with a course of study covering one year.

For the purpose of encouraging the establishment of permanent training centers in prefectures, the Government began to furnish three prefectures with promotional subsidies since 1962. The training in this educational institution is conducted mainly through younger generation classes and by various types of training meetings and lecture meetings which enlighten and develop the knowledge and techniques of fishermen.

By the end of 1965, eleven more places will have such institutions, and in due course of time thirty-one other places will also be operating their respective training centers.

The Government, which is now developing the culture industry of important species of fish in Seto Inland Sea, has entrusted the Seto Inland Sea Reproduction Fisheries Association with the training work of culture techniques at three establishments of its culture center with promotional subsidies.

IMPROVEMENT AND EXTENSION WORK

For the purposes of extending fishery techniques and improving fishery management of fishermen, prefectural governments have appointed technical officers and extension officers. The Central Government furnishes subsidies for the personnel expenses and office expenses at the rate of 50% of the total.

The technical officers, now 105 persons in total, are divided in two groups-fish propagation group and fishery mechanical group. They are generally attached to prefectural fisheries experimental stations. They conduct researches of their specialities, and at the same time they undertake guiding and assisting work of the services of extension officers. As occasion demands, they give direct advice to fishermen.

For the purpose of extension service, the whole country is divided into 478 areas, each of which has about 500 fishery households in it. One extension officer is stationed in each area, and he takes charge of giving direct advice to fishermen in his designated area. This system was instituted in 1959 with 48 extension officers, and their number being increased every year, their stationing in the whole areas has been completed in 1965.

With regard to the improvement of living conditions of fishermen's households, under the provisions of the Promotion Law for Agriculture Improvement of 1960, home-life improvement extension officers have been stationed in fishing villages and the number of these officers reached 195 in 1965.

These technical and extension officers undergo a special training under the sponsorship of the Government. The training for technical officers is held in Tokyo dividing them into two groups-fish propagation group and fishery machinery group, while extension officers are trained in the local institutions dividing the whole country into 6 blocks. Their training course includes lectures, discussions and object lessons covering one week.

With regard to newly appointed extension officers, technical officers and home-life improvement extension officers, they undergo a special training course covering 10 days in Tokyo once in a year.

For those extension officers who have been in service for some time since, a long re-training course covering 3 months is offered since 1964, and they receive such training in Fisheries Research Laboratories, Prefectural Fisheries Experimental Stations, Universities or other Government institutions, the course of which includes lectures, discussions and objective lessons.

The expenses of such training are borne by the Government, and the travelling expenses of trainees are partly paid through governmental subsidy.