

SOME ASPECTS OF FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT POLICY
IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

by

K.H. Kim
Office of Fisheries
of the Government of the Republic of Korea

Summary

The paper describes some salient aspects of Korean fisheries policy, including financial and other forms of support - in particular mention is made of the "Saemaul Movement".

In the development of the Korean fisheries four aspects in particular may be singled out as playing an important role in Government policy:

- (i) the development of the infrastructure including port facilities, radio network for fishing vessels and shore-based support facilities generally;
- (ii) provision of financial assistance for boat-building and modernisation of gear and equipment;
- (iii) assistance in the organisation of fishery cooperatives;
- (iv) provision of financial assistance and in improved extension services to aquaculture projects.

Financial assistance to the fishing industry in Korea falls under three main headings - Government loans (revolving fund), Government-assisted credit and direct subsidy. Government assistance in the motorisation of small fishing vessels has been by way of both subsidy and loan and since 1962 has resulted in some 3,467 vessels being equipped with 75,199 hp. It is proposed to accelerate this programme in the future. A large proportion of subsidy is taken up each year with the construction of fishing ports. By the end of 1972 the Government had constructed more than 400 ports and annual Government expenditure on this item is running at more than 80 billion Won (US \$31.4 million).

Another major item of expenditure is the construction of new vessels, especially for coastal and off-shore waters. Particular classes of vessels receiving assistance include those of 100 tons (eligible for 80 percent loans) and those of 30 tons (eligible for 50 percent loan).

Finally, mention should be made of the "Saemaul Movement", which can best be translated as the "New Community Movement". As its name implies this is a Government sponsored community development scheme involving investment and technical support at the village level, aimed at improving both the way of life of the community as well as the incomes of the people; all 35,000 villages across the country are participating. So far as fisheries are concerned, aquaculture projects for oyster, mussel, clams, etc. have particularly benefited from Government encouragement. In view of the concern of the movement with enterprises at the community level, cooperative fishing and marketing among artisanal fishermen is particularly being promoted.