Acknowledgements

It is my heart-felt joy to acknowledge:

Prof. Dr. M. Shahul Hameed, former Director of School of Industrial Fisheries, Cochin University of Science and Technology, for his invaluable guidance, sustained encouragement and critical assessment of the work;

Prof. Dr. C. Hridayanathan, Director of School of Industrial Fisheries, for his encouragement and for extending the facilities of the School;

Dr. K. Gopakumar, former Director of Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), Cochin and the incumbent Deputy Director General (Fisheries), Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, for granting me study leave, to undertake this investigation;

Dr. K. Ravindran, former Director of CIFT, for his invaluable advice and encouragement;

Dr. K. Devadasan, Director of CIFT, for his timely advice on the necessity of pursuing this study and words of encouragement;

Dr. V.C. George, former Head of Fishing Technology Division, CIFT, for his sustained good will and help in collecting materials for certain aspects of this study;

Dr. N. Chandrashekhar, Professor and Head of Computer Engineering Department, National Engineering College, Kovilpatti, for his inspiring advice and for kindly going through the manuscript;

Faculty members of the School of Industrial Fisheries, for their sustained good will and co-operation, throughout the period of studies;

Non-teaching staff of the School of Industrial Fisheries, for their courteous co-operation;

Fraternity of research scholars of the School of Industrial Fisheries, particularly Mr. T.V. Sankar (Scientist, CIFT), Dr. A.V. Shibu and Mr. B. Hari, for their good will, rapport and assistance during the period of the investigations;

My scientist colleagues of Fishing Technology Division, CIFT, for their sustained good will and co-operation, during the period of study leave; late Dr. K.V. Mohan Rajan, for his friendly persuasion in undertaking this work;

Colleagues and friends in the sister R&D and training Institutions, and Fisheries Departments; a large cross-section of people belonging to the traditional and mechanised fishery sectors; fishery entrepreneurs; fishing boat builders; and personnel of Cochin Fisheries Harbour, for their whole-hearted co-operation during the course of collection of materials for this study;

My wife Manjusha and children Sandeep and Swathi, for their support and care.