8. CONCLUSIONS

According to Banerji (1973) we were almost exerting the maximum fishing effort through indigenous gear nearer to optimum yield in 1973 itself and further increase in the fishing area already exploited by them might fetch only marginal increase in catch. In recent developments involving large-scale introduction of purse seining along the west coast especially Karnataka, the production of mackerel instead of increasing has not succeeded even in maintaining the status kept by the indigenous fishing. The stability or stagnation the fishery attains at \( F_4 \) is hence of prime importance. As addition in \( F \) has no appreciable increase in yield, it is better to restrict furtherance of fishing pressure. The fishery as already hinted at, has not reached over-exploitation and depletion. We are now in the middle of a decade when the trend of fishery in ten-year cycle normally is at its ebb. Giving weight to this fact too, this is the time to restrict fishing and allow the resource to recuperate and fishery to revive to a peak around the confluence of the decade nineteen eighties to nineteen nineties.

We must be still alert to assess the changes that take place in the fishery. Use of mechanized boats has increased the area of fishing far and wide. Mackerel caught and unloaded
locally by country craft stationed at a number of landing centres lying only a few kilometres apart, on account of high mobility and range of mechanized craft are reached quickly, exploited, transported and emptied at selected centres where berthing and marketing facilities are available. Landings spread out early over a stretch of 70 to 80 km of coastline, being thus centralised, at a glance appear high. Truly there is no addition to the catches and hence no increase in the production.

The problem now at hand is the competition on exploitation developed between mechanized and indigenous fishing vessels. Regulations restricting their fishing activities to separate areas have already come. But as boundaries of these areas in sea cannot be marked, mechanized units often trespass upon the prohibited part. Even if they don't, they can intercept the incoming shoals outside and deprive the indigenous unit of any catch. This being the crux of to-day's problem, fixing quota system and sharing of stock between mechanized and non-mechanized sector must get priority in the developmental activity for which stock assessment is the must.