ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am highly indebted to Dr. P. A. John, Professor (retired), Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, Trivandrum and Supervising Teacher, for his valuable suggestions, constructive criticisms and constant encouragement throughout the study.

I am grateful to Dr. N. M. Nair and Dr. M. V. Ahamed Bavappa, erstwhile Directors of CPCRI, Kasaragod, Dr. N. P. Jayasankar, Joint Director, CPCRI, Regional Station, Kayangulum and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for permitting the programme on part-time basis, showing personal interest in the work and allowing to utilize the data in the preparation of this thesis.

I wish to thank the Department of Aquatic Biology & Fisheries, Trivandrum for providing necessary library and official help for proper progress of the work.

I am extremely grateful to Shri Jose Abraham, Scientist (Statistics), Calicut, for his help in computer programming and statistical analysis.

The help rendered during the course of this investigation by my scientific colleagues Dr. M. V. Shantaram, Shri G. B. Pillai, Shri K. S. Mohan, Dr. A. Muralidharan, Dr. A. Gopalam, Dr. Robert Cecil, Dr. (Mrs.) Padmaja, Dr. R. N. S. Sundaram, Dr. (Mrs) B. Chembakam, Dr. Thomas Zachariah (Jr.) and Dr. M. V. A. Wafar, in subject discussions, manuscript correction and thesis preparation, deserves special mention here.

I express my sense of gratitude to Shri S. Subramaniam, Managing Director, MARECON Pvt. Ltd., Madras for his invaluable help in providing the computer print out of graphs.
My sincere thanks are due to Shri S. P. Jayapal, Shri Bhadran, Miss Felicidade Alfonosa and Shri V.N.N. Menon, for their technical and secretarial assistance.

It would be incomplete if I do not mention the help and encouragement extended to me by my wife Smt. Usha Subramanian, both at home and for the work. The constant encouragement given by my affectionate parents (late), brothers, sisters and daughter Subha, had been the inspiration and motivation throughout my academic career. Many are not mentioned but none is forgotten.