CHAPTER – I
INTRODUCTION

Fish has been the most important and sustaining factor for the people around the world. It is particularly true in the case of inland fisheries communities. Fish is a major industry for many people in the rural areas. It is an industry supplying the raw material for many industries – the manufacture of fishmeal for a poultry and the production of oils of various kinds.

Fresh water aquaculture has transformed from subsistence to commercial stage in recent years. The past two and half decades have witnessed tremendous growth in fish production from pond and tank culture. The fish production was 0.82 million tonnes in 1950-51. However, it increased to 9.56 million tonnes in the year 2013-14. It is due to greater emphasis given to popularization of technologies such as Composite Fish Culture (CFC) and seed production in hatcheries through Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDA).

The development of fresh water aquaculture sector has led to the emergence of aquaculture as an industry. With technological improvement, scientific management and good investment, productivity of fish farming has increased to higher level. The fish production was 500 kg per hectare during the year 1951. However it increased to 2000 kg per hectare by the year 2014. The culture of CFC system has been proved to be better in terms of achieving higher growth, because these species can make use of all levels of pond’s environment as they have different food habits and also based on an important economic principles of equi-marginal returns.
Fisheries Development involves the expansion of fishing effort without affecting the sustainability of fishery activities. It may be defined more broadly to include, in addition to fish production, transportation, marketing, and provision of infrastructural and other related facilities. Inland fisheries consists of rivers, lakes, reservoirs, tanks and ponds.

The third world countries are still facing socio-economic problems such as, poverty, un-employment, inflation, regional imbalances, low productivity, low income, lack of food security, malnutrition etc. Rural areas in developing countries depend to a large extent on agriculture and its allied sectors such as, fisheries, poultry, animal rearing etc. Furthermore, most of the rural areas show hidden unemployment. Moreover, the success of agriculture and its allied sectors, depends on the environment which is more uncertain in most of the developing countries rather than industrialised countries. Therefore, international agencies have placed high priority on sustainable agriculture and its allied sectors. They give, much importance to rural development which is another objective in enhancing employment.

As a supplement to agriculture, pisciculture is emerging as an important source of food especially in respect of the diminishing returns in agriculture, increase in income elasticities and the inelastic supply of land. The development of fisheries, helps in supply of food. For example in Japan, pisciculture has utilized the natural resources of water to the maximum advantage.

When two-third of the world population suffer from malnutrition, there is an inevitable need for a blue revolution. In 1981, at least 420 million people did not have enough food to eat, now this figure had doubled. Among them 1/3rd of the population are living in India. Added to this, population pressure, both natural and man-made causes, like floods, droughts, earth quakes, wars,
compel the nation to tap aquatic resources. If enough food is to be produced to feed the million of people, a number of resources such as land, water, energy, fertilizer, and technology must be made available and judiciously used.

The planet is rapidly exhausting its supply of tillable soil. Many aspects look towards the blue revolution to solve the food crisis. But the wild stock of fisheries is also a finite resource. However, Japan had developed technology which has helped to increase fish production. Hence pisciculture, with its intensive used of resources, should offer a sustainable alternative sources of world food production. It is identified that many developing nations are receivers of potential technology for pisciculture. These nations include virtually 1/3rd of the world population. The impact of blue revolution with systematic and scientific aquaculture is highly emphasized, as the world today is shocked with over fishing and fest depletion of many species of fish in different zones.

There is an increased demand for fish, due to madcow disease spreading in European and Western countries. In addition to this, the Bird-flu disease has also spread in East Asian countries. The population growth and income elasticities all over the world, creates a gap between supply and demand. According to the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), by the turn of the twentieth century the gap between world consumption of fish food and the supply of fish products would be around 20 million tonnes. Here the major why to lessen this gap is increase production of fish through aquaculture.

The per capita consumption of fish is high in countries such as Japan, Chile and Norway i.e., 60 grams, 80 grams, 104 grams per day respectively. It is estimated that the minimum standard requirements is 50 grams per head. The national and state per capita consumption falls below the standard minimum level i.e. 11 grams and 18 grams respectively. Therefore, India occupies the
136th position in the world. The per capita consumption would be raised within the renewable potential by diversification of marine fishing and intensification of inland fish farming.

Fish is considered to be a superior source of animal protein. A kilogram of fish can be produced more cheaply than a kilogram of meat. Thus, well managed environments, 2000 to 3000 kilograms of fish can be produced per hectare, per year. However, in the case of cattle it is confined to 500 to 700 kilograms.

Fish rearing can be taken up on a small scale. Sometimes it may be complementary to general farming. The land requirement for aquaculture permit the use of low economic value land, revines, swamp land and salt water marsh, that are not well suited for other uses.

Special Problems of the Fishermen Community in India

Let us focus attention on the features of the fishermen community in the Indian context.

i) Poverty: Acute poverty is a special feature of the Indian fisher-folk, which is exclusively dependant upon fishing for earning their livelihood by carrying out fishing in an subsistence level. Seasonal fluctuations of catch, high degree of risk and uncertainty, common property nature of the resource, capital-intensive fish-catching equipment’s and post-harvest disposal etc. are the causative factors for the poverty.

ii) Illiteracy: Fishermen do inhabit in the locations where, there is scope for fishing i.e., closer to the fishery resources like rivers, reservoirs or seashore often lacking facilities of education and communication. More over most of the time being consumed for fish catching and disposal, hardly any time is left to devote for education. Obviously high rate of illiteracy inhibits the mass for acquiring modern skill to increase catching efficiency, limiting remunerative returns adding to poverty again.
iii) **Backwardness:** Acute poverty, high degree of illiteracy, subsistence level of earning, leads to socio-economic backwardness. Inadequacy of communication facilities like road-links, transport facility, telephone etc. for fishermen village rather compels the community to live in an water-tight compartment without due exposure to the modern civilized world.

iv) **Traditional Know-how:** Most Indian fishermen operates to earn his livelihood rather than for economic prosperity. As such the ability to accumulate wealth by bountiful catch is limited because every fisherman adopts the age-old technology acquired through traditional inheritance of the art from their fore-fathers generations after generations. The backward mental horizon compels him to be contented with whatever is the return he achieves, most of them strongly relying upon their fate.

v) **Conservative Idea:** The fishermen community is very conservative in all their activities and approach, closing their senses to any modern innovative, because lack of education, financial resources and traditional thinking pulls them back to face a risk. Being contented with a little just sufficient for their livelihood, they hardly desire to adopt changes in their aptitude and approach.

vi) **Individualistic Views:** Each and every fisherman family being dependent upon individual bread-earner are always with individual approach for all socio-economic avenues. Therefore they are observed to be impermeable to cooperative spirit for self-help through mutual-help, as has been proved, over years of experimentation, that cooperatives are of very little significance fore changing the present socio-economic scenario of the fishermen community.
vii) **Blind Believes and Superstition:** The Indian fishermen due to their illiteracy and backwardness are very much prone to superstitions and blind believes. Many integrate the returns from the fish catch with their fate, while other correlate it with the God’s grace. The fisher-woman use to dip her bangles, the symbol of her marital-status in a pot with turmeric water while her husband ventures into the sea for catching fish, with the hope that Ganga-Maa will protect her spouse from all dangers.

viii) **Low Efficiency and Skill:** As has already been indicated; the Indian fisherman operates in a subsistence-level, only to earn his livelihood utilizing the traditional fishing skill inherited from his forefathers. As such it is obvious that the catching efficiency is very low, yielding a low income leading to poverty. Statistics have proved that one Japanese fisherman is as efficient as 400 Indian fishermen in term of his fish catching efficiency. In other words the annual per capita fish catch in Japan (i.e. total annual marine fish catch divided by numbers of active fishermen engaged during the year) is 400 times more than the per capita marine catch of India.

ix) **Indebtedness:** The seasonal fluctuation in fish catch is the cause of poverty and indebtedness of fishermen. During peak fishing season, when he gets a sizable catch he is not properly rewarded, due to low potential market demand compared to the bulk production. Whereas during off-season when there is hardly any catch to cater. Therefore, even though during off-season there is no fish catch, the fishermen has to incur his consumption expenditure for sustenance of his family, for which he runs to middleman moneylender. The selfish middleman use to invest for the fisherman during his odd-days with the condition that he is to deliver all his fishes at a price detected by him, for which the fisherman in turn incurs heavy loss getting disproportionate return for his catch. this phenomenon continues as a chain reaction to make the fisherman more and more indebted.
Remote Habitation: Fish being the chief-source of livelihood, the fisherman reside closure to the fishery resource. Often seasonal abundance of fish drives the fisherman to different locations compelling him to reside in temporary hutments. As such fishermen habitations are located always as nearer to the fish as possible, whatever remote the situation may be. As as result, many fishermen villages are not approachable by modern communication links like road, rail, telecom, electricity etc. Obviously due to lack of communications the fishermen are denied to the minimum basic facilities of education and health services, facing severe problems for transport not only for procuring daily rations but to market their catch also.

Advantages of Fisheries

In recent years due to population explosion there has been an urgent need to solve the acute food problem faced by a large stratum of the population grappling below poverty line. As such, fisheries development is getting added emphasis day to day duet to tis superiority over other allied primary food producing avenues like agriculture, horticulture, and animal husbandry on account of the following advantages.

Oldest Known Profession of Human-race: The wild-man on the ‘horizon of civilization’ has stepped based food was scarce for him, on the principle of ‘necessity is the mother of invention’. Therefore wild hunting of fish was presumed to be prevalent during Stone Age also, as an alternate avenue of food supply for the under-civilized man and art of fishing has been continued through the ages by way of traditional inheritance of the art. As such fishing is an age-old practice and antedates it origin pre-historic during period and it is as old as human civilization itself. So capture fishery had laid the foundation stone of the
modern fishing industry being the forefather of the recent fisheries development. Therefore as per the Hindu mythology it has been appropriately depicted as the “Matshys-Avatar” i.e., the first incarnation of the “All-Mighty God”. Unfortunately the oldest known profession to the human race, which has sustained the wild man over years, much before innovation of crop and animal husbandry practices has been largely neglected; even though it has tremendous potentialities with in it; to counter the alarming problems of food and unemployment day by day.

ii) **Three Dimensional Productivity:** It is a matter of layman understanding that production/productivity viz., agriculture, horticulture, and animal husbandry is invariably computed in term of quantum per unit of area (tons per hectare). This is due to the fact that production of crops/cereals/pulses/ fruits/vegetables/animals yielding flesh/eggs/milk etc. are dependent upon the primary production of the land surface only over which they graze. But production in fisheries sector is assessed in term if quantum per unit of space (viz., tons per hectare meter of water), since productivity in this sector is three-dimensional. The entire water column collectively is responsible for augmenting the productivity through the solar energy derived for the organic production. As such it is needless to indicate here that fisheries yield much more in cash value compared to all other allied food producing avenues.

iii) **Diversity of Aquatic Organisms:** Fishes are the most numerous among vertebrates, constituting above 40% of the vertebrate kingdom. More than 20,000 strains of fishes have yet been identified and classed. Apart from fishes, there are numerous other varieties of organisms belonging to almost all the phyla of the animal kingdom are adapted to a life in aquatic environment. Hence as a resource, fisheries is superior to any
other animals or plants under husbandry practice, due to the fact that it offers greater variety of strains both for capture of culture practices. Strictly speaking, the number if varieties available in fisheries sector, outnumbers all the strains of any other crops /cereals/ pulses/ fruits/ vegetables/pet animals/bird known to human being as on to day, either for commercial exploitation or for the husbandry practices.

iv) **Vastness of Aquatic Resources:** In the global surface, the water covers as much as 72% in expanse (almost 2½ in times), leaving only 28% for the land mass presently inhabited by human race. Secondly in term of volume, the depth of World Ocean is over 10 kilometers, more than 3-times compared to the highest mountain peak of Mount Everest on land. As such the fishery resource is the most bountiful resource gifted to the mankind for harnessing economic prosperity. There is a saying that “where civilization ends, fresh avenue for fisheries starts” i.e., in the seashore where every human heart thumps with fear visualizing the fierce vastness of the oceanic realm, fresh possibilities for harvesting the bountifulness of the marine world starts from that seashore onwards, the deeper one will venture the bountier will be the economic return. It is for this reason only sea is named as “Ratanakar” viz., the store of gems in the Hindu mythology.

v) **Efficiency in Food Conversion:** ‘Fishes are most efficient among the farm animals in covering agro-waste into nutritious protein’ and constitute the ‘cheapest animal protein available in the world’. As such no other animal husbandry practice other than pisciculture, can yield more economic return per unit of space or time. In fish forming the important input fish seed costs from only 4 paise (10 mm.) to 40 paise (100 mm.) each depending upon size. It is the package of practices (low/high) cost technology) adopted by the farmer, which convert this
tiny baby fish to grow up to at least 1 kg. at the end of the year costing Rs.40.00 per kg. Thus the money invested in fishery sector is capable of multiplication from 100 to 1000 times in an year, which is perhaps the highest among all culture practices devised by present day science. The farming avenue is still more remunerative in prawn of shrimp farming technology. Obviously where ‘there is gain there is always risk’, since a living sensitive organism is under husbandry practice.

vi) **Productive Utilisation of Wasteland:** The areas those are unfit for any purpose (viz. agriculture, human habitation, animal husbandry etc. i.e., marshy lands) are best suited for fish farming. Swamps, roadside or rail-side borrow pits, in derelict/semi-derelict conditions, which except harbouring mosquitoes yield nothing for human benefit, are the excellent resources for pisciculture. This is specially relevant for coastal marshy lands in the inter-tidal zone, which due to its inherent salinity are neither suitable for cultivation nor for human habitation, but are best suited for the culture of the priced dollar-earning shrimp farming operation by effective utilization of these waste lands.

vii) **Nutritive Value:** As has been discussed earlier, fish protein is not only the cheapest animal protein in term of its value compared to other animal proteins like beef, mutton, chicken, perk etc., but it is a high-class protein due to its high digestibility and convertibility. That apart, fish is the principal source of Vitamin A and D and all Vitamin A and D formulations available in the market like Adexalin etc., are either fish body oil (Oil-Sardines) or liver oil (Cod liver of Shark liver). recent research findings have enunciated that consumption of fish reduces cholesterol level in blood, which is solely responsible for cardiae disorders. Fish flesh contains the lowest quantity of stroma i.e., connective tissues, compared to other animal flesh, which makes it
easily digestible, and animal flesh, which makes it easily digestible, and this is the reason for which fresh fish, if consumed in excess, does not create any health hazards. Moreover calcium and phosphorus supplement for the body can be only be derived from fish, especially small fishes as all the bones can be consumed and assimilated. It is only in case of fish alone, among all the animal proteins, where bone can be totally chewed and ingested. Astonishingly bone ash after biological-digestion contains over 95% of calcium phosphate alone. The red-muscles of fishes fights away anemia, by aiding production of hemoglobin, it is for this reason only doctor advise to take fishes like Magur (Clarias batrachus) the flesh of which contains lot of red-muscles. Interestingly the fish protein has been proved to be anti-cancerous very recently.

viii) Less Prone to Diseases: The causative factors for the diseases are the pathogenic microbes, which are the gifts of unhygienic environment. Water is regarded as the most common natural cleaning agent used for washing/ rinsing of all dirty materials, to ensure normal health and hygiene. It is the mother water which nurtures all the aquatic organisms like fish, as such these organisms are always maintained neat and clean by natural way. Rather aquatic organisms by feeding upon the detritus, benthos, suspended particulate materials including microscopic animalcules helps in cleaning of water. Therefore unless the mother water is polluted and contaminate with the pathogenic microbes, the fishes and aquatic organisms inhabiting within, are not supposed to be affected by any diseases in normal environment. Of course there are fishes that are specially adapted to lead a life in the most adverse conditions in the swamps in partly or fully derelict conditions completely choked with weeks, by developing accessory respiratory organs. However, if at all a fish residing in a polluted environment is contaminated with any disease causing pathogens for human health, the
Indian cooking system is such, the microbes will be definitely killed at the boiling point of the cooking oil. Rather larvivorous fishes like Gauramy (Osphronemus gauramy, gambusia affinis, Tinca tinca etc.) by feeding upon the mosquito larvae indirectly control all the mosquito transmitted dreadly diseases like Malaria, Filaria, Kalajar, Enfluenza etc.

ix) **Forex Earning Avenue:** Fisheries is having tremendous potentiality for earning of foreign exchange, thereby bettering the economy of the nation. By the export of very little bulk of cargo (only 200 mt.), a sizable earning (Rs. 87 crores) in term of foreign exchange is achieved in India. The fisheries sector in Orissa is proud enough to provide the second highest amount of export earnings (Rs.5.50 crores by export of only 150 mt. of cargo), next to exports of metals and minerals in huge bulks.

x) **Counters the Food and Unemployment Problem:** As has been indicated in the foregoing paragraphs, the fisheries resources is one of the richest gifts of nature. Apart from the vast capture fishery resources in form of ocean, rivers and lakes; with the advancement of human civilization, numerous man-made reservoirs, tanks and ponds have strengthened the resource base over years of endeavors. As such these extensive resources are very widely distributed and in every corner of human habitation there must be a water body, inland or marine. In case these water sheets are utilized for productive purpose by introduction of fishery, it not only maintains the hygiene of the water but it counters the food problem by fish production as well as unemployment problem by gainful utilization of idel human resources.
The improvement on fishing community living standard depends on how easy it is to gain access to this technology, and the proportion of fishermen who benefit from this mechanization. When technology brings more fishermen better equipped, it ensures higher income enhance the catch, strengthens purchasing power and improves living conditions.

Transition for subsistence to an enhanced standard of living is also brought about by ensuring a fair price to fishermen for their catch. This is very much determined by the market structure, the marketing process and marketing channels. The marketing channel comprises a chain of individuals and agencies that connect the producer (fishermen) and the fish consumer. It is this channel that determines equitable prices to the producer as well as to the consumers.

In this process of marketing channels the fishermen often fell themselves to be exploited by the merchants because of the sales agreements made for advances of credit to sell their fish catch at a pre-determined price particularly the prawn.

The requirement of credit by fisherfolk for consumption and production purposes is very important. It plays a very crucial role in their livelihood. It offers the opportunity of channelising their creativity into income generating activities and self-employment. Fishermen have problems in accessing formal sources of credit due to various factors related to their ignorance, illiteracy, poverty and administrative procedures. They basically depend on the informal sources of credit from fish traders, money-landers and boat and net-owner for their livelihood.
Statement of the Problem

India is the third largest producer of fish in the world. However in the case of inland fish production it occupies the second position. This sector provides gainful employment to the tune of 3.8 million people which includes the full and the part-time. An equally impressive segment of the population is engaged in the ancillary activities associated with fisheries.

The total fish production in the country is 9.56 million tonnes during the year 2013-14. However, inland fish production occupies 2.36 million tonnes, which comes round to 36 per cent, whereas marine fish production is about 64 per cent. There is an enormous scope for augmentation of both marine and inland fisheries. An integrate approach must be adopted for the development of fisheries on a sustainable basis.

Man can obtain food from two natural resources. The first one is land which is a natural one. Similarly, water takes the second position. Man can obtain food from land resources in the form of cultivation. However, in the cast of water resources, man cannot cultivate as in agriculture. In the case of fisheries, nature itself cultivates and provides the crop of fish to the human beings.

At present in India, millions of people are suffering from the problem of mal-natrition. However, the fishes and prawns solve the problem of nutrition. Moreover, fishes are tastier than meat, chicken etc. Fishes are the cheapest food for the poor people. According to a Central health survey, fish contains the highest nutritious value followed by eggs. Fish provides balanced diet at a cheaper rate which is available with in the reach of the poor people.
In the context of the employment point of view, the fisheries sector provides employment generation to the level of 14 million people in India. The fishermen’s main profession is catching the fishes. Moreover, they depend on fisheries for their livelihood.

If it is being taken from the income point of view, hunting is the main source of income for them. From the production point of view, the fact that the number of fishermen are increasing, year after year. It is a clear indication of the growth of the fishing industry. Development of the fishery sector will lead to infrastructure facilities, such as road, electricity, cold storage, communication, transport etc., fishermen will offer help in the case of natural calamities like, foods, sinking of boats in the rivers, lakes, reservoirs etc.

In the market, demand for fish is always greater than the supply of fish. Even the prices of fish are not increasing these days demand is not much. This is due to illiteracy, poverty, lack of organizational behavior and the ignorance of fishermen. Moreover, the fishermen are selling around 60 per cent to 70 percent of their catch in the surrounding villages or local markets. They do not have sufficient cold storage facilities. Therefore, they have to sell the perishable commodity within a stipulated time. Owing to these problems, they are not getting remunerative prices.

The present research will attempt to focus on the above mentioned aspects (problems) in Nagappatinam District. Moreover, causes for backwardness, and factors which are responsible for the development of fisheries industry in Nagappattinam district will be analysed elaborately.
**Importance of the Study**

This study will be of interest to academicians as well as to the general public because it is the first study of its kind. It endeavors to make a comprehensive study of the fisheries activity in Nagapattinam district from socio-economic and political perspectives. The topic under study is contemporary and need immediate attention of the academicians to find solutions to the emerging problems. The simmering discontentment among the traditional fishermen on account of various problems faced by them, may take violent turn if proper remedies are not taken. This study can contribute to the holistic understanding of the problem and to formulate a programme to redress the grievances of the fisher community in Nagapattinam district. The study can make a significant contribution to identify the gnesis of the problem.

This study will generate information which will be a milestone in understanding fisher communities of Nagappatinam district. The other significant contributions are as follows:

1. The findings of this study will help to evolve some concrete fisheries policies such fisheries policies might give broad direction and priorities on how the resources of a nation ‘or’ region are to be utilized. This would go a long way in achieving the goal sustainable fishers.
2. This study would expose the plight of the traditional fishermen and might motivate the Government to provide some relief to the traditional fishermen.
3. The present study might be of a great interest to the environmentalists and public at large in knowing about the monitoring, control and surveillance systems for the culture fisheries.
Objectives

The main objectives of the study are:

1. To trace the growth of fish production in Nagappatinam District.
2. To study the growth of income and employment of fishermen in Nagappattinam District.
3. To study the growth of inland fish production.
4. To investigate the existing sources of different types of credit availability to fisheries sector (formal and informal sources).
5. To examine the policies and Programmes of the State and Central government and financial institutions with regards to credit provision to fishing communities.
6. To study the factors which are responsible for the backwardness of fishermen.
7. To analyse the conservation and sustainability aspects of fish resources and to suggest remedial measures.

Hypotheses

Keeping in view these objectives, the following hypotheses have been formulated and tested:

1. Growth of fish culture has no positive effect on generation of income of sample households.
2. There is no significant change in fish production after implementation of Fish Farmers Development Agency.
3. The employment effect of fisheries industry is not significant.

Concept of Fisheries

The term “fisheries” is used in the singular form as well as plural form, depending upon the context. It is also used synonymously with the “Fishing Industry”. The term fisheries comprises one or more stocks of fish that can be treated as a unit for the purpose of conservation and management. On the other
hand fisheries include all activities related to the exploitation of fish; they are divided into two categories:

1. **Capture Fisheries**: It refers to the harvesting of natural fish stocks found in oceans, fresh water, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, tanks, along with handling, marketing, processing and distribution of fish products etc.,

2. **Culture Fisheries (Aquaculture)**: It is performed in brackish coastal areas, irrigated reservoirs, canals, natural ponds, manmade ponds, tanks, cages, pens and lagoons. It involves propagating and raising aquatic organisms under human control.

**Selection of Respondents.**

This study is based on the information elicited from 484 respondents belong to the traditional fishermen. There is no reliable and updated list of these fishermen. Neither the Government nor the fishermen’s associations have maintained such a list. Moreover, the fishermen are not easily available due to this busy work and other agricultural activities. Therefore, researcher has to reply upon the purposive sampling method for selection of the respondents. However, enough care was taken to have the heterogeneous representation of the fishermen in terms of age, education, religion, caste, etc.

**Methodology**

The present study is based on both the primary and secondary data. The secondary data include published books, handbooks, released by both State and Central government, statistical abstracts, and reports studied by various research organizations, and various articles published in national and international journals etc.

The primary data have been collected by administering a specific structured schedule on different income and employment aspects of fishermen. A sample of units were selected for interview on the basis of stratified random method, well spread all over the district of Nagappattinam respectively.
Simple statistical tools, like mean, standard deviation, percentage, trend line graphs, have been used to depict growth and confine it. Ratio analysis, has been used to assess economic variability, correlation, co-efficient, co-efficient of variation for analysis.

Limitation of the Study

This study is of descriptive nature and is based on both the primary and secondary data. This study has been handicapped by the fact that the relevant data we not available with the concerned departments. These offices have expressed their inability to provide the necessary information due to inadequate manpower. As this study is also based on the primary data, we cannot claim 100 per cent accuracy. In spite of our ardent efforts to get accurate information, it was seen that many of the traditional fishermen were ill-informed and those who were knowledgeable were unwilling to give information, which they felt could be detrimental to their interest. Many others are not in the habit of keeping systematic records either about their income and expenditure ‘or’ about the cost and benefits. It is these difficulties that have hampered the scope of this study.

Period of Study

In the case of secondary data, the data are available from 2000-2013. In the case of primary data, the field survey has been conducted in the year (during the months of March and April) 2014.

Plan of Study

- The present work comprises eight chapters.
- The first chapter deals with introduction, methodology and objectives.
- A brief review of literature is attempted in the second chapter.
- The third chapter explains the scenario of global inland fisheries.
• The fourth chapter presents the development of the inland fisheries industry in India.
• The fifth chapter reveals the profile of Nagappattinam District.
• The sixth chapter deals with the structure of market and credit marketing linkage.
• The seventh chapter deals with the impact of fisheries industry on the respondents.
• The last chapter deals with summary, conclusions and policy recommendation.