CHAPTER 11

SUMMARY

Marine fisheries occupy an important place in the development programmes of the country. The field of marine fisheries received due attention only after we attained independence in 1947. Since then steps were taken for organised research and development in this field with the establishment of the Central Fisheries research institutions. Five year plans initiated to strengthen the foundation of economic and social structure and to evaluate the industrial, economic, scientific and technical advances, strengthened the development programmes in the fisheries sector. India is ranked at present eighth among the fishing nations of the world as far as fish production is concerned, thanks to the integrated effort for the growth.

Marine fisheries research has also contributed a lot to our understanding of the nature, extent and dynamics of the marine fisheries resources of our waters for their proper exploitation and management. New technologies have been developed in tapping the living resources
from deeper waters of the ocean and in fish harvesting and processing. Educational programmes have also helped in the creation of enough trained manpower for the development of the sector.

Marine fisheries information helps research and development activities of the country directly or indirectly. It is an essential factor in the development of marine fishing, marketing, fisheries management and fishculture programmes. The study on the existing information services shows that there is a big gap and inadequacy in its function. There is no integrated effort in the co-ordination of the existing information centres for fulfilling the needs of the users. There is no general policy in the sharing of the marine fisheries information in the country.

There has been a sudden increase in the growth of marine fisheries literature since 1950. During the present study, a detailed survey of the marine fisheries literature in India has been carried out. The rate of the growth of marine fisheries literature for the last two decades has been recorded. The titles of core periodicals and the list of periodicals connected with marine fisheries
published in India have been given.

The status of the existing library and information services of marine fisheries institutions of the country has been found out from the survey and it has been observed that there is a lot of inadequacy in this area and the services are ineffective.

A survey conducted in order to find out the drawbacks in the existing library and information services and the actual needs of the users reveals that the existing information services are far from satisfactory in fulfilling the needs of the users. Fish culturists and industrialists do not possess proper library facilities. The information services for policy makers are also not adequate. Among 22 information services mentioned in the questionnaire the following services have been recommended by the users.

1. Document Procurement
2. Current Awareness Service
3. SDI Service
4. Press Clipping Service
5. Abstracting Service
6. Data Service
7. Data Bank
8. Union Catalogues
9. Photocopying
10. Information on R & D Progress
11. Reprographic Service
12. Information on conferences, workshops, summer institutes etc.

Considering the various aspects like the importance of marine fisheries in the national development, progress of marine fisheries research, growth of marine fisheries literature, and the inadequacy in the existing library and information services and the needs of the potential users of marine fisheries field, a National Marine Fisheries Information System has been designed.

The Marine Fisheries Information System (MFIS) is a national information system that would collect and disseminate information on marine fisheries literature to the actual users and facilitate exchange of information with the International Information Systems connected with marine fisheries.
It is a mission oriented, decentralised information system comprising of a national centre, subordinate centres and local information centres. It is a network of all information centres connected with marine fisheries. This is a unitary effort for channelising the benefits to all participating centres. The subject coverage of the system must be marine fisheries and allied subjects.

The main functions of MPIS are:

(a) To co-ordinate the existing library and information services.

(b) To collect, organise, analyse and disseminate information on marine fisheries and allied subjects.

(c) To encourage free flow of information by means of services like Document procurement, Current awareness service, SDI service, Press Clipping Service, Abstracting service, Data service, Data bank, Union catalogues, Photocopying, Information on R & D Progress, Reprographic services, Information on conferences, Workshops, Summer institutes etc.

(d) To help avoid duplication of research efforts and to speed up the application of improved technologies.
The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute being the pioneering institution in the country engaged in marine fisheries research and development activities, the Library and Documentation Division of this Institute has been identified as the nodal agency to function as the National Information Centre of the MFIS. All the central and state government fishery institutions and departments of marine sciences have been selected as the subordinate and local information centres. MFIS has been designed in such a way that it might be a network of all the information centres of the country. The most essential information services to be undertaken by the MFIS has also been indicated. A data centre is to be created in marine fisheries and allied subjects and it will be the Data bank for all the subordinate and local information centres.

The Acquisition policy should give attention to avoiding the unnecessary duplication in the procurement of costly documents. Selection, storage and retrieval of information sources must be related to the overall policy of the system. Duplication in the effort for the compilation of different types of services can be eliminated and effective services can be brought out for the users
of marine fisheries information in the country.

Catalogues of periodicals, books and subject-wise bibliographies must be prepared and kept for the users of MFIS.

MFIS should be a national input centre for different International Information Systems like AGRIS, ASFA, AQUIS, and BRAIS. It should keep good liason with other National and the International Information Systems.

Apart from providing fishery information services necessary for the various developmental activities in the country, the MFIS also envisages to undertake an active role in creating awareness among the public about the library and information facilities available and how these services could be advantageously used in their practical field. Periodic surveys of the impact of the services of MFIS on the fishery sector will also be conducted and necessary improvements in the performance of the system accomplished by organising occasional meetings, seminars and symposia to provide a common forum for exchange of ideas and better co-ordination among librarians, fishery scientists, technicians, academicians and administrators in the country.