I wish to express my sincere thanks and deepest sense of gratitude to my guide Dr. B. Madhusoodana Kurup, Professor, School of Industrial Fisheries, Cochin University of Science and Technology, for his unfailing guidance, intellectual inputs, invaluable suggestions, critical assessment and constant encouragement throughout the tenure of my research work.

I am also grateful to Prof. (Dr.) Saleena Mathew, Director, School of Industrial Fisheries, Prof. (Dr.) Ramakrishnan Korakkandy and Prof. (Dr.) C. Hridayanathan, Former Directors, School of Industrial Fisheries, for providing necessary facilities to carry out this work successfully.

I am happy to record my sincere gratitude to Dr. K. Ravindran, UGC Visiting Professor of this school for his valuable advices and friendly support during the period of my research work at this school.

I am deeply indebted to Prof. T. M. Sankaran (Retd), College of Fisheries, Panangad and Dr. M. Harikrishnan, Lecturer, St. Alberts college, Ernakulam for their generous help in the statistical analysis of the data and invaluable help extended to work on various software packages of fish population dynamics.

The timely advices given by Dr. Philip Thalamage Scientist, U.S. Geological Survey and Dr. Sanjeevkumar Sreevastava, Scientist, National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow in standardising the methodology of the Habitat inventory part of this work is deeply acknowledged.

I am grateful to Sri G. Mohan Kumar, IAS, Chairman, MPEDA for encouragement in completing this work after my placement at Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture.
I am highly thankful to Sri. Y.C. Thampy Samraj, Project Director, RGCA, Dr. P. Jayagopal, Project Manager and all other my colleagues in RGCA – DTS project for rendering their constant motivation and support for completing this work.

The encouragement and assistance extended by my teachers, other faculty members of the office staff and my fellow researchers at the School of Industrial Fisheries are greatly acknowledged.

I would like to place on records my immense gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Radhakrishnan K.V., Mr. Eapen Jacob, Dr. Euphrasia C.J., Mr. Venu S., Dr. Joice V. Thomas, Mr. Johny T. Varghese, Mr. Ronald W., Ms. Subhasree Shankar, Mrs. Sreedevi C. and Mr. Paul Thampy for their valuable help and support rendered for the sumptuous fulfilment of this research work. My sincere thanks are also due to Ms. Neethu K.G., Data Entry Operator of the NAT-ICAR Project.

Sincere thanks are also due to Mr. M. D. Mahesan, V.J. Johny and Mr. Biju for their invaluable support and help rendered in carrying out the habitat inventory surveys in different river systems of Kerala.

Last, but not the least, I wish to express my sincere thanks to National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow for giving me an opportunity to work as a Senior Research Fellow in the NAT-ICAR project on ‘Germplasm Inventory Evaluation and Genebanking of Freshwater Fishes’.

Manojkumar T.G.