ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the Preparation of this dissertation, I have received generous help from several sources. It may not be possible for me to mention all of them. I will be, however, failing in my duty if I don’t express my deep sense of gratitude to my research guide and supervisor Dr. P. Sundararaj. But for his expert guidance, whole hearted support and unfailing help, this work would never have come to light.

It was Dr. K. Pazhani, who initiated me into this field of research and under whose guidance my work began. He had a keen interest in my research work and encouraged me with advice and help even after he retired from the collegiate service as Principal. I bow him in gratitude.

I am grateful to Dr. Cyril Kanmony and Mr. Vinodh Natarajan whose proficiency and competence in quantitative economics have been of immense help to me and Mr. Elpinston, Assistant Professor, Nesamony Memorial Christian College, Marthandam and Dr. Hylin Reba, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Scott- Christian College, Nagercoil, whose comments on some of the earlier chapters of the thesis have been quite useful.

I sincerely thank Dr. Jessy Isabella Pazhani, Associate Professor, Holy Cross College, Nagercoil, Dr. Mabel Sulochana, Assistant Professor, Nesamony Memorial Christian College, Marthandam, for their constant inspiration and encouragement. I sincerely thank them.
The study would not have been completed but for the timely help of Dr. Gixon, Head of the Department of Economics, Mr. Arul John Bennet, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Nesamony Memorial Christian College, Marthandam, and Mr. Christopher Justin, Post Graduate English Teacher, at various stages of my research work. I am grateful to them.

I am expressing my sincere gratitude to Mr. Rajasekharan, Assistant Director of Statistics, Nagercoil, Mr. Subramanian and Mr. Rubert Jothi, Assistant Directors of Fisheries, Mr. Ajith Stalin and Mr. Antony, Inspectors of Fisheries, Kanyakumari District for the valuable discussions on various aspects of marine fishing industry of Kanyakumari district.

I am happy to acknowledge my indebtedness to the librarians and library assistants of Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Cochin and its regional centres at Mandapam in Tamil Nadu and Vizhinjam in Kerala. The willing and ready services of Mrs. Shoba, in charge of library of the Department of Economics, Scott Christian College, Nagercoil, took away much of the tediousness of research.

I am extremely grateful to Mr. Dharmaperumal, System Analyst, MIDS, Chennai, for his valuable assistance in computation works and Mr. Arputharaj for the neat and prompt typing of the final manuscript. My special thanks are due to
Win-Tech Computers, Nagercoil, for completing the final work of the thesis perfectly.

My sincere thanks are due to the sample respondents for spending their precious time with me in listening my questions and bore with much patience in giving required information without any hesitation. I am also thankful to the office bearers of the Mechanised Boat Operators Welfare Societies functioning in the various coastal villages of Kanyakumari District.

I am thankful to my brothers, sister and my friends for their help and co-operation during the course of the research work. My indebtedness is beyond words to Benila, my wife and Shalom and Brinda, my children who bore with great grace and fortitude, the privations caused to them by my preoccupation with research. In spite of all the help and assistance, the shortcomings which still remain are my own.

Place: Nagercoil,
Date:    /01/2015

J. DAS KENNEDY