

FISHERMEN'S EDUCATION IN HOKKAIDO*

by

K. Oshima
(Formerly Chief, Hokkaido Fisheries
Experimental Station, Japan)

ABSTRACT

The paper describes the development of fisheries training in Hokkaido during the postwar years through the introduction of fishery subjects and courses from lower secondary schools up through University level. Reference is also made to the development of fisheries cooperatives societies and training schools.

INTRODUCTION

The coastal waters of Hokkaido have abundant fishery resources, and the fishery production there accounts for about 22 percent of the total catch of the whole country, including that by pelagic fisheries, but with regard to the catch value and number of fishermen engaged in fisheries their percentages are as low as 12 percent and 9 percent respectively.

Fisheries Statistics of Hokkaido, 1963

	Whole country	Hokkaido	%
Fish catch (1,000 tons)	6,698	1,478	22
Catch value (100 million yen)	5,138	625	12
Fisheries establishments (1,000 establishments)	298	34	11
Fishermen (1,000 persons)	612	59	9

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The main items of fish catch in recent years are Alaska pollack, cuttlefish, salmon, flatfish and Laminaria. A declining tendency is seen in the production by coastal fisheries such as fixed net fishery and by fishing boats of small type, while the production by off-shore fisheries with fishing boats of medium type is increasing.

In the early stages of fisheries development, because of sparse population in this island, the resources were exploited largely by those fishermen who came up to Hokkaido from the Main Island (Honshu). Under such situations, it can safely be said that the fishermen's education was extended to this island only after World War II.

FISHERIES EDUCATION IN UNIVERSITY

The Sapporo College of Agriculture, the predecessor of the present University of Hokkaido, was established in 1876. In this College, J.C. Cutter, an American professor, started in 1878 his series of lectures on ichthyology and aquiculture, which are considered to be the first lectures on fishery science made in Japan. Kazutaka Ito, a first time graduate of the College, in 1880, was appointed to the post of fisheries section chief of the Hokkaido Government Office and produced many good achievements in his work. Kanzo Uchimura, a second time graduate, who made an English speech on "Fishery is a Science also" at the graduation ceremony, served the Hokkaido and Central Governments as fisheries technical officer. (He became a very famous missionary afterward.)

The fisheries education section of the Sapporo College of Agriculture has developed into the Faculty of Fisheries of the present University of Hokkaido after many changes. In the meantime about five thousand graduates specializing in fisheries were turned out, and they are contributing to public welfare in the field of fisheries education, study, administration, corporation and business. The present Faculty of Fisheries has four departments; they are Department of General Fisheries, Department of High Sea Fisheries, Department of Biology and Aquiculture, and Department of Chemistry and Fishery Products Technology. These departments turn out about two hundred graduates every year.

FISHERIES HIGH SCHOOLS

The first Hokkaido Fisheries School under the jurisdiction of the Hokkaido Government Office, which is now called the Otaru Fisheries High School, was established in 1905. Hokkaido had three more fisheries schools of the same type before World War II.

After the war, four full-time fisheries high schools and four part-time (evening) fisheries high schools were established in addition. These high schools, 12 in all, turn out about eight hundred graduates every year. The students of part-time fisheries high schools are largely those young men who are already engaged in fisheries.

The main courses of study in these high schools are fisheries in general, aquiculture, manufacture of fisheries products, radio operation, engineering, business management, etc.

FISHERIES EDUCATION IN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

In junior high schools in fishing villages, fishery subjects are taught as a selective course for those students who want to be employed in fisheries after their graduation from school. But in recent years there is a declining tendency in the number of students who want to select this course.

YOUNG FISHERMEN'S CLASSES

In the fishermen's leisure season, young fishermen are encouraged to attend training classes in their village to elevate the level of their general culture.

COASTAL FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT EXTENSION OFFICERS AND FISHERIES TECHNIQUE EXTENSION OFFICERS

There are about one hundred and forty fisheries improvement extension officers who are officials of the Hokkaido Government and about forty fisheries technique extension officers who are officials of town and village offices. These extension officers are subsidized by the Central Government and the Hokkaido Government respectively. They have been stationed in fishing villages after the war to give coastal fishermen proper guidance in the management of fisheries.

YOUNG MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GROUPS OF FISHERMEN'S COOPERATIVE AND INSTRUCTORS

Hokkaido has now about one hundred and eighty fishermen's co-operatives and most of them have young men's and women's groups. Young men's groups hold study and training meetings, in which young fishermen study the principles of fishermen's cooperatives, business of structure improvement, fisheries techniques and management; and at the same time they participate in symposia and make inspection tours to advanced fisheries places. Women's groups were originally organized for the purpose of encouragement of savings among fishing families, but now they are also endeavouring for the betterment of living modes, improvement

of the position of women and education of children. The present members of women's groups in all Hokkaido number about thirty-five thousand persons. For the purpose of developing and coordinating the activities of these two groups, eighty-four instructors are stationed at thirty-two fishermen's cooperatives.

GUIDANCE FEDERATION OF FISHERMEN'S COOPERATIVES

This guidance federation was established in 1961 and is a unique organization in Japan. Its chief objective is to carry on educational functions by which the management of member cooperatives and their membership can make sound development.

The federation is composed of the Hokkaido Federation of Fishermen's Cooperatives, the Credit Federation of Fishermen's Cooperatives and the Fisheries Credit Funds Association. It is subsidized by the Government Office of Hokkaido, and its annual revenue for 1964 was about 65,000,000 yen.

The main activities of the federation include the training of officers and employees of fishermen's cooperatives in the management of cooperatives and the holding of training meetings for young men's and women's groups, symposiums among members, short training courses for fishing boat navigators, engineers and radio operators.

FISHERMEN'S COOPERATIVE TRAINING SCHOOL

This is the education center for the staff of fishermen's cooperatives in Hokkaido which was established in 1952. The course of study is one year and the number of trainees is limited to 50. All trainees live in a dormitory, free of charge, and they are also given an allowance.

WAKKANAI FISHERIES TRAINING CENTER

This training center was established at Wakkanai in 1964 for the purpose of extension and improvement of the know-how and technique of fisheries and betterment of the family life of fishermen. All fishermen in Hokkaido are exhorted to attend the classes held in the institute for several days or months. The trainees live in dormitories free of charge, and study their selected subjects.

POPULARIZATION OF TV AND FISHERIES NEWSPAPERS

The statistics for 1964 prepared by the Hokkaido Government Office indicate that 67 percent of all fishing families in Hokkaido have TV sets and almost all fishing families which have no TV sets are owners of radio sets. Fisheries newspapers and magazines are kept for public reading at the offices of all fishermen's cooperatives. Through these media, fishermen and their families are capable of obtaining general and special knowledge of fisheries as well as a general information relating to society at large.

CONCLUSION

The abovementioned statement is the outline of the educational facilities for fishermen in Hokkaido. In view of the fact that fishermen live generally in remote places and are usually engaged in sea services and that they are not favoured with the opportunity of receiving fair education, it is our duty to strive for the permanent development of our fishing industry and for the promotion of prosperity and welfare of the masses of fishermen by improving their knowledge of fishery resources conservation and by intensifying their consciousness of membership of democratic society breaking down the feudalistic idea of the past still prevailing among them.