

Traditional Fishing Crafts of the Bay of Bengal

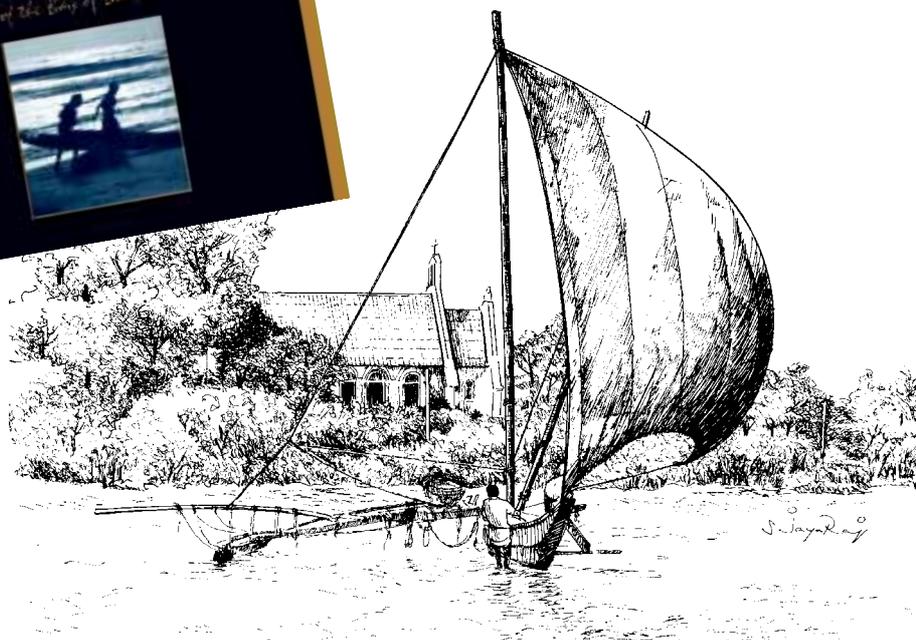
by Y S Yadava

This splendidly pictorial booklet, which records and describes the traditional fishing craft of the Bay of Bengal, is 60 pages of sheer enchantment. It is packed with facts, statistics and quotes about traditional fishing craft from India, Bangladesh, Maldives Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Thailand; but its charm lies in the 40-odd photographs and a few sketches.

The log kattumarams, raft kattumarams and boat kattumarams of Tamil Nadu; the navas and shoe dhonis of Andhra Pradesh; the sabada and chhoat of Orissa; the chandi of Bangladesh; traditional boats from Thailand; the canoes of Indonesia; the beautiful oru of Sri Lanka; the teppam of Sri Lanka; the dhoni of the Maldives – what are their distinctive features? What are their pluses and minuses?

As Dr M S Swaminathan says in the booklet’s foreword, “I am impressed by several obvious characteristics of the traditional crafts – their simplicity, their beauty, their compactness. I can well believe that some of these crafts are perfect for their users, the artisanal fishermen who operate in the inshore waters of the Bay of Bengal.”

The choice of the black-and-white medium for photographs of traditional craft is apt. If colour photographs reflect the life of a subject, it’s black-and-white that captures its soul, as Henri Cartier-Bresson demonstrated many years ago. This publication, of course, can’t boast of any picture by that great master, but it does have some



memorable photographs by Harry Miller — many of them shot in 1979, the year BOBP was launched. “Austere, yet beautiful” to quote Dr Swaminathan again, the photographs “capture not merely the small-scale fishing craft but also the lives of small-scale fishermen: full of peril, full of challenge and adventure, full of meaning.”

Traditional Fisheries Management Systems in Six Provinces of Indonesia

by Sihar Siregar, Reza Shah Pehlevi, Riyanto Basuki.

Fisheries management was the mandate of the BOBP’s third phase. Diverse activities and approaches to management were tried out in member-countries. In Indonesia, it was considered useful to study the experiences and practices of customary fishing rights systems, and obtain learnings and lessons that could be applied to community resource management today.

This report documents case studies of traditional or customary fisheries management systems from six provinces of Indonesia – North



Sumatra, West Sumatra, Aceh, Jambi, South Sumatra and Riau. The Directorate-General of Fisheries, Indonesia, organised the exercise in collaboration with national institutions and the Provincial

Fisheries Service of South Sumatra province.

The three authors who put the case studies together adopted a three-fold approach: they reviewed and synthesised existing literature; conducted a number of interviews with fisherfolk communities; and carried out a two-month field survey in the six provinces.

The concepts contained in the traditional management systems were straight-forward in their simplicity. For example, a leader “should be clean”; he should be honest; he shouldn’t go back on his word. No killing, no stealing, no poisoning, no sexual intercourse before marriage. Rules for fishing in common property areas were clear, and penalties were spelled out. The rules and penalties were apparently enforced, because compliance was high.

“There’s much that modern fisheries managers can learn from these traditional systems,” says the book’s foreword.

Coming Together to Manage Fisheries:

A Field Guide to Stakeholder Analysis

by R N Roy

If several people have a stake in a project, a property or a proposal, they should organise and manage it together. It’s difficult to dispute the wisdom or common sense behind this statement. But in fisheries, few things are regarded as more difficult than management by all stakeholders.

This little 68-page booklet, a “field guide to stakeholder analysis” therefore meets a serious need. Well-illustrated with sketches and diagrams by S Jayaraj, the booklet is based on the BOBP’s experiences in fisheries management. A Prologue points out: “The stakeholder approach described in this guide is more an approach to managing those involved in fisheries than managing the fisheries.”

This field guide is regarded as useful to fishery extension and technical staff, representatives of NGOs working in fisheries, members of fisher co-operatives, people working with communities, anyone interested in enabling communities to better manage the resources they depend on.

It is believed that the guide enables the reader to understand the problems faced in managing small-scale fisheries; it proposes stakeholder approaches that may overcome the problems; it defines a stakeholder and proposes methods of identifying stakeholders of a fishery; it suggests methods of undertaking stakeholder analyses; it suggests ways and means of bringing stakeholders to the table; it proposes the way forward, including stakeholders agreeing on problems; it raises issues and concerns that may confront stakeholder approaches to fisheries management.

The field guide makes it clear that “more explorations need to be made” to refine the maps and tools of the methodologies advocated in the book.

Fishes of the Maldives

This massive 450-page book, in English and Dhivehi, identifies and describes as many as 370 fish species of the Maldives, with sketches, English and local names and some brief technical



description. It has been organised by the Marine Research Centre in the Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and Marine Resources, Male, and printed by the BOBP.

The book was first published in 1997; this second edition was published in 2003. The book will be found useful by students of fisheries science, and by everyone who needs to identify commercial fish species. A major aim of the book is to present information in Dhivehi to local populations who do not have access to specialised literature.

One of the highlights of the book is the Preface by the President of Maldives himself, His Excellency Maumoon Abdul Gayyoom. Written in Dhivehi, the Preface reflects the profound interest of the President in the fisheries of the Maldives, and in this book in particular.

