BOOK REVIEWS

FISHES OF KUWAIT by Batsuzo Kuronuma and Yoshitaka Abe 1972. Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, Kuwait City. XX + 123.

If one is interested in a handbook of common fishes of the Arabian Gulf and northern Arabian Sea then the book entitled "Fishes of Kuwait" published by the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, would be well suited. The good get-up and a high quality of printing and material used are quite indicative of the affluence of the publishers. Even a cursory look at the book would win spontaneous appreciation both from amateurs and professional fishery scientists.

The important points which bring this book above most of the existing ones are its small size and 20 coloured plates giving photographs of 96 fishes in their natural colours. These will help a great deal in identifying the specimens quickly.

As most of the fishes found in the Arabian Gulf are common to the Arabian Sea, the book will be useful for several countries bordering the Arabian Sea.

The first part of the book is devoted in brief to the characters of 64 families accompanied by their simple line drawings. The second part gives diagnostic characters of about 130 species belonging to these families together with their habits and habitat and geographic ranges. An index of the technical terms used in the book is also provided separately.

The book is an outcome of the marine biological survey conducted by the Japanese ichthyologist, Mr. Yoshitaka Abe under the guidance and supervision of Dr. Kuronuma, a well-known ichthyologist and formerly President of the University of Fisheries. Both these are the authors of the book. The Marine Biology and Fishery Division of the Kuwait Institute should be commended for planning such a survey which formed the basis of this book.

The credit for the beautiful printing goes to M/s. Dai Nippon Printing Co., Japan. However, the long errata issued with the book, and a large number of spelling mistakes and faulty sentences are probably because of poor editing and proof reading. It clearly indicates how the value of a good book could be reduced for want of proper editing.

Notwithstanding these shortcomings, the usefulness of the book largely remains unchanged.

The price of the book is not mentioned. Probably the Government of Kuwait has kept it for free distribution to institutions and fishery biologists.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE SYMPOSIUM ON LIVING RESOURCES OF THE SEAS AROUND INDIA. CMFRI, Cochin India 1973, 748.

Marine living resources have been the subject of study in India for more than two decades and considerable efforts have been made to increase India's marinefish production. These efforts were discussed in a symposium held in Cochin on "Living Resources of the Seas around India" in 1968. The Proceedings of this symposium have been published as a special publication of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute. For better planning, good management and proper exploitation of sea food, it is necessary to know the resources of our waters, and this need, to some extent, has been fulfilled by this volume.

The volume includes 57 scientific papers contributed by the Indian fishery biologists. These papers cover different types of marine resources, individual fishery resources, fishing vessels, fishery technology and quality control etc. However, considerable changes have taken place between the time the symposium was held (1968) and the proceedings were published (1973). Nevertheless, the informations presented by many authors are of much value. K. V. Rao has described in detail India's exploited marine fishery resources. S. K. Banerjee has given the pelagic fishery resources (mackerel, oil sardine and others) together with their yields. R. Subrahmanyan has mentioned the indicators of fish resources. Similarly, forecasting of fishery is also an important aspect of the resources study and this has been attempted by D. Chakraborty by theoretical calculations using the existing data. P. Sam Bennet has tried to explain the fluctuations in the catches of oil sardine. Such forecasting of fisheries and predictions in their fluctuations are very necessary and should be continued for a better management of resources. P. V. Ramachandran Nair and his colleagues have estimated the potential fish resources of the east and west coasts of India, on the basis of measurements made by ^{14}C technique, as $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 times of the present yield.