

BOOK REVIEWS

Aquaculture Practices in Taiwan by T. P. CHEN, *Fishing News Books, Farnham, Surrey, 1976, xii + 162 pp, 98 figures, £ 5.00, ISBN0-85238-080-1.*

The role of aquaculture in the dietary needs of south east and far east Asian countries is well recognised. Some of these countries are considered to be the pioneers in the field of aquaculture. In recent years, countries like Taiwan, have made a considerable progress in developing aquaculture on a commercial scale, largely due to the cooperation achieved between the scientific community and the private aquaculturists. In the light of this, the book, "Aquaculture Practices in Taiwan" giving information about eighteen species of fishes, four species of crustaceans, five species of molluscs, one species of amphibian, one species of reptile and one species of algae, is a welcome edition. The author, who is at present, the Chairman of Taiwan Fisheries Consultants INC., has spent a large number of years in the study of aquaculture in China and Taiwan.

In the introduction, the author gives the figures of the total production from aquaculture in Taiwan in 1974 as 114,472 tonnes which was 16.4% of the total fish production of Taiwan. The value of the different cultured species is given in terms of weight and money. Milk fish ranked first in terms of weight, whereas eels ranked first in terms of money. The book adequately highlights the culture of milk fish, the polyculture of Chinese carps and artificial propagation of the grey mullet. Taiwan is leading the world in the culture of these species. The utilisation of sewage for the culture of *Tilapia* is also covered. The book gives a list of 98 illustrations, a short biography

of the author and the map of Taiwan along with written text on geographical conditions and environmental parameters, resources and the socio-economic conditions.

The subject matter of the book is compiled in eighteen chapters. Each chapter gives information on the biology and status of the cultivable species, which is followed by detailed methods of culture in use. Thus, almost all the informations required by an aquaculturist are given in the book. It, however, misses the economic aspects of aquaculture such as total investment, cost of production and the profit made. This type of information is urgently needed by those wishing to undertake aquaculture on a commercial scale. The index to the subjects and the species is also missing. Nevertheless, the text is supported by photographs and drawings. Each chapter ends with literature cited, mainly Chinese. In the chapters on culture of Chinese carps, grey mullet, walking catfish and shrimps (*Penaeus japonicus*, *P. monodon* and *Metapenaeus monoceros*) the techniques of artificial propagation and development of commercial hatcheries are also given.

The book will be very helpful to students, teachers and fish farmers of the Asian countries. Though the general get up, paper used and printing of the book are good, its price is not within an easy reach of individuals and hence a cheaper edition would be most welcome.

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