

DAWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL
HOME WORK: GEOGRAPHY (TASK 2)
GRADE VIII

Chapter: Fishing Industry:

Homework: Read the following handout to enhance your information.

A brief note on fisheries on Pakistan:

Fishery plays an important role in the national economy. It provides employment to about 300,000 fishermen directly. In addition, another 400,000 people are employed in ancillary industries. It is also a major source of export earnings. In July-May 2002-03 fish and fishery products valued at US\$ 117 million were exported from Pakistan. Federal Government is responsible for fishery of Exclusive Economic Zone of Pakistan. In addition, it is also responsible for making policies, inter-provincial co-ordination, planning, research, quality control, training, exploratory fishing, stock assessment, fisheries management, fleet improvement, data collection and export etc.

Pakistan is gifted with rich fishery potential. It is located in the northern part of the Arabian Sea and has a coastline of about 1,120km with a broad continental shelf and its Exclusive Economic Zone extends up to 200 miles from the coast. There are about 16,000 fishing boats in coastal area of Pakistan which operate in shallow coastal waters as well as in offshore areas. These fishing boats undertake fishing trips lasting for few hours to about 25 days depending upon type of fishing. Total production from inland and marine waters is approximately 0.60 M. tons.

Fish Harbours of Pakistan:

The major fish harbours of Pakistan are:

- Karachi Fisheries Harbour is being operated by Provincial Government of Sindh.
- Karachi Fisheries Harbour handles about 90% of fish and seafood catch in Pakistan and 95% of fish and seafood exports from Pakistan.
- Korangi Fish Harbour is being managed by Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and livestock.
- Pasni Fish Harbour being operated by Provincial Government of Balochistan.
- Gwadar Fish Harbour being operated by Federal Ministry of Communication.

Fish processing plant:

There are 29 fish operating processing units in Pakistan with storage capacity of 10,000 tons, out of these 25 units are located in Karachi of Federal Government provided intelligentsia and technical assistance to seafood establishments for improving their processing conditions in line with various EU/ international standards. Through this process, 8 establishments have already improved their conditions and were approved to export seafood to European Union countries. In addition, another five plants have almost upgraded their conditions and others are also undertaking changes in their facilities to comply with EU/ international standards.

Fish consumption/utilization:

A substantial quantity of fish is consumed locally. In addition, small pelagic and by-catch of trawl fishing is being used for production of fish meal. Remaining balance is exported in salted dried, frozen and chilled form. The data for consumption of fish is annexed.

Fish export:

Fish and fisheries products are processed and exported to over 50 countries. About 30-35% of the fish and fishery products are exported to European Union countries. Japan, U.S.A, China, Saudi Arabia, U.A.E, Malaysia, South Korea, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka and Singapore are other major importing countries. The export data is annexed.

- Fish export has shown an increasing trend in the past many years, however, a substantial decrease has occurred during 1998-99 which is attributed mainly due to glut in the international market and because of financial crises in the Southeast Asian countries. Export of seafood is facing many a problem notably among these are:
- Post-harvest losses are high due to handling of fish catch on board and long voyage time.
- Congestion at Karachi Fish Harbour. There are more than 16,000 fish boats operating in Sindh zone.
- The storage capacity is only 10,000 tons which is not sufficient to cater to the future requirements.
- Pakistan is exporter of raw material or semi processed fish/ seafood.

Marine aquaculture is non-existent; however, fresh water aquaculture is fairly developed. The Government of Pakistan is taking various measures to increase the export of seafood over US\$ 500 million within next two years. The measures are:

- Up-grading of fishing vessels to control post-harvest losses.
- Provision of modern peeling sheds for providing raw material to fish processing industry.
- Flake ice plants on harbours.
- Intensive marketing efforts at international level.
- Promotion of marine aquaculture.
- Human resource development through training.
- Regular monitoring of resources through stock assessment surveys and exploratory fishing.
- Procurement of handling and cleaning equipments for fish harbours.
- Construction of coastal highway.

EPB'S role in fisheries:

EPB has been the main coordinating agency in improving the hygienic conditions in Karachi Fish Harbour and up-grading of fish processing units to meet European Union and international standards. Ministry of Commerce/Export Promotion Bureau provides assistance to all agencies concerned with export of fish/ seafood from Pakistan. The following assistance/fund was provided by EPB to Karachi Fish Harbour to meet the European Union requirements regarding hygienic conditions at the harbor.