

EDITORIAL

Over the past decade fisheries in the Maldives have fared well. It has maintained an annual growth rate of 6.4%. Average annual production has been 12.8%. A large number of young people has started fisheries as a major income generating activity. Increased profits and earnings made by the fisherfolks in various parts of the Maldives, are becoming apparent in their communities. New developments towards identifying a "Private Sector" participation in all aspects of fisheries, are discussed freely among all groups. World fisheries too seem to be following a similar course of action.

Twenty years ago, the only market, for our fisheries products have been Shri Lanka. Today, our markets are also the same international markets shared by all fishery nations. These markets are affected by the World Economy. Specially today, the economics of Developed World are not very stable, and this is reflected in our economies too. The world has shrunk, and we are all tied up in a closely entwined economic mesh.

Expansive seas have become small, we need to reflect our thoughts beyond the 200 mile limits.

1992 has been an important year for the World Environment. The World Community has begun to react to the global environment challenges. When 3/4 of the Earth's surface is covered with the Oceans - global reactions and actions, meetings and accords are definitely going to consider the Oceans as a very important area. Thus we, should closely monitor these actions of the International Community.

The Maldives eventhough is a very tiny Coastal State, oceanic environment is huge. Thus we are an oceanic-rich Nation. Fisheries is not an activity based the production of tunas or reef fishes only.

When we are preparing for the year 2000, we need to find out what deficiencies we have in our fisheries and need to find out how best we could remedy them. Thus we need to begin thinking about developing our fisheries in a much broader perspective. New technologies, new inventions, new fisheries need to be thought of. We need new blood, new thinking, new approaches to solve these problems.

Youths of our nation need to act now. If we are to sustain our fisheries in a global context we need people who are well informed, who can work closely with experienced local fishermen and fishery people.

December 10th - Fishermen's Day is an important day for all those who are working in the fisheries sector as well as those young people who want to participate in the sector to decide the future course of action. Let us all determine to develop a fishery that could be exported to various parts of the globe by the year 2000. We should not forget we are a fishing Nation and will always be a fishing Nation.

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