

**T**he establishment of the Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD) as the Fourth Department of SEAFDEC was approved by the Council at its Twenty-Third Meeting in December 1990, and formalized in 1992 with the appointment of its Chief and Deputy Chief. The Department has been provided with new buildings and research facilities in Chendering, Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia, by the Government of Malaysia as part of its contribution to host the MFRDMD.

The MFRDMD will concentrate primarily on the promotion of proper development and management of the marine fishery resources in the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of member-countries. Marine fishery resources research was initially carried out by the Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD) of SEAFDEC in Singapore. The loss of the research vessel *M.V. Changi* in 1974 compelled MFRD to shift its emphasis to postharvest technology research. The marine fishery resources research activities were taken over by the Training Department (TD) of SEAFDEC in 1980. However, with the formal establishment of MFRDMD in 1992, the marine fishery resources research activities of SEAFDEC will now be undertaken by the Department. Thus, the individual functions of the four Departments of SEAFDEC are currently distinct and different. The Training Department in Thailand is basically involved with the training of fishery technicians, while the Marine Fisheries Research Department in Singapore concentrates on research and development of postharvest technologies. The

Aquaculture Department (AQD) in the Philippines deals mainly with research and training for aquaculture development.

With the establishment of the EEZs, the coastal states in the region have the responsibility of conserving and managing the

fishery resources in their respective EEZs. This task is best tackled on a regional basis and will be facilitated by the MFRDMD, which will act as a center, providing guidelines to member-countries. It will endeavor to monitor the state of these fishery resources and their exploitation, as well as to provide the scientific basis for their proper development and management. MFRDMD will also serve as a regional forum for

capability of member-countries in this field.

Collaborative and cooperative research activities with the other SEAFDEC Departments and relevant fisheries research institutions and organizations of member-countries will be undertaken. These activities will focus on the assessment of the fishery resources in the maritime waters of member-countries to provide information for their proper development and management, assessment of the status of coastal marine habitats, monitoring of commercial fishery catches and analysis of commercial catch-effort data, fisheries oceanography, fishing gear and equipment research to improve and adapt them for the proper exploitation of the fishery resources, and development of appropriate methods for the rehabilitation of marine fishery resources.

To facilitate the improvement of member-countries' capability to develop, conserve and manage their fishery resources, the Department will focus on training of fisheries researchers from national institutions of member-countries by conducting collaborative fishery resources surveys, on-the-job training of researchers and administrators at the Department, and regional seminars and workshops. The Department will also disseminate information on the status, potential yield and distribution of fishery resources in the region to the member-countries and other international organizations/agencies. Other information, including methodology of stock assessment, management measures, status of the fishing industry and economic performance of the different types of fisheries will similarly be disseminated.

In addition to the above activities, the MFRDMD also undertakes R & D projects funded entirely by the Govern-

ment of Malaysia. These research projects focus primarily on coastal marine ecology and conservation, artificial reefs, and the monitoring and assessment of coastal and offshore marine fishery resources within Malaysia's EEZ.

## The Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department of SEAFDEC

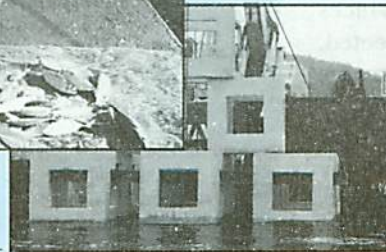


*Administration building of SEAFDEC's Marine Resources Development and Management Department.*



*Collecting data on physical size of some fish for their biological study.*

*Concrete reef modules used in the studies on artificial reefs for squid.*



cooperation and consultation on marine fishery resources research and management among member-countries, and other relevant regional and international organizations. The Department will also coordinate and implement programs to improve the