

# The Yellow Sea Fisheries Research Institute

The Yellow Sea Fisheries Research Institute is the oldest institution of its kind in China, established in Shanghai in January 1947 as the Central Fisheries Laboratory. In 1949 it was moved to the beautiful seaside city of Qingdao. Now a regional multipurpose fisheries research institute under the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fishery, it has a staff of 447 of whom 256 are scientific workers, including 64 senior scientists. Since 1984, YSFRI has equipped itself with an advanced fishery resources research vessel, the Beidou, with a tonnage of 1,162 and 2,250 hp, to conduct joint research on fishery resources in the Yellow Sea and Bohai Sea with the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research. So far, many valuable results have been obtained through the Beidou's investigations. It also has two other research vessels with 600 hp and tonnage of 378 each, a smaller boat with 80 hp for coastal aquaculture and a mariculture experimental station.

Guided by a policy on science and technology oriented towards improving the national economy, the institute has made valuable contributions to the development of marine fishery research work and to national production.



The Beidou, YSFRI research vessel.

## Research Departments

The Marine Fishery Resources Department conducts research on the migration and distribution, population dynamics and resource conservation of the important commercial fishes and shrimps in the Yellow Sea and Bohai Sea, such as the small yellow croaker, mackerel, Pacific herring, hairtail, Spanish mackerel, Chinese herring and penaeid shrimp.

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Entrance to the Yellow Sea Fisheries Research Institute.

The Fishery Environment Department has as its major concern marine environmental research involving the hydrology, hydrochemistry and biology of fishery waters within the Yellow Sea and Bohai Sea. It also conducts research on ways to understand the formation of fishing grounds to be able to make hydrological forecasts.

The Marine Animal Recruitment Department engages in the artificial seedling rearing of black porgy, left-eyed flounder and globe fish. Its studies on the common mullet involve the indoor wintering of gravid female fish, collection of fry from wild populations, intermediate culture and releasing of fry into the sea. Shrimp research is directed toward seedling rearing on an industrial scale. Other current research thrusts of this department include the artificial seedling rearing of abalone and the propagation of sea cucumber.

The Sea-Farming Department concerns itself mainly with research on the relationship between the environment and the growth of commercial algae, so that it may be possible to do further research on the artificial seedling rearing, high yield cultivation and genetic selection of *Laminaria* and *Porphyra*.

The Fishing Technique Department aims to improve traditional fishing gear and fishing methods. However, this department carries out experiments with

new fishing techniques and net materials, as well.

The Aquatic Product Processing Department is responsible for the refrigeration of commercial fishes and shrimps, aquatic product processing techniques, industrial utilization of algae and standardization of aquatic products.

The Fishery Economics Department is at present collecting primary data and conducting investigations on the experimental cultivation stations.

The Fishery Information Department provides information on the state of the art of marine fishery science, with a view to assisting in setting research topics, preparing programs and assessing their possible economic effects. It compiles and publishes scholarly reports or papers and scientific information. The department is also responsible for domestic and international information exchange. It maintains a library which houses 50,000 volumes in Chinese, English, Japanese, Russian, German and French.

## Major Research Results

The institute has brought more than 300 research topics to fruition. It has obtained 87 research results of great significance, 50 of which have won state and government awards. These include fertilization in *Laminaria* cultivation; transplantation of *Laminaria* to the South of China; culture of a new strain of *Laminaria*; artificial seedling rearing and



Seedling rearing of *Penaeus orientalis* at the Taipin jiao Station.