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Two Years of Operations of the UNDP/FAO Caribbean Fisheries Development Project

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Abstract

The project became operational with 16 member countries at the end of 1965. Two 82-foot vessels, CALAMAR and ALCYON, began operations in December 1966 and a 56-foot vessel, FREGATA, in July 1967. Combined cruise reports and fishing logs are issued periodically.

Results of Japanese style longlining for pelagic species are not encouraging, but live bait fishing shows some promise. Best results achieved in trawling for demersal species between Trinidad and Surinam averaged, in production fishing, 6,000 pounds per day sea trout, *Cynoscion virescens*; croakers, *Micropogon furnieri*; and mixed fish. Landings of iced fish in Barbados, marketed under supervision of project personnel, are well received. Marketing demonstrations are being extended to other project countries.

Member countries have requested the project to take a more active role in advising Governments of the administrative structure necessary for expanding markets.

Training of fishermen and fishery administrators is an essential part of the program. Ten fishermen have completed the courses with an average of 22 on strength. Some 70 fishermen and 30 junior fisheries officers are to be trained.

Project member countries met in Barbados in September 1967 and expressed satisfaction with the progress to date. Already countries are considering steps for continuation of cooperative efforts after the project ends in 1969.