

SULTANATE OF OMAN

FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

272-0101

In 1982, the Omani-American Joint Commission for Economic and Technical Cooperation and the Oman Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries approved the project paper for the Fisheries Development Project (272-0101).

The project was designed "to address major constraints to the further development of fisheries by providing technical assistance and training to develop the institutional capacity of the Directorate of Fisheries in four areas: general fisheries program management, estimating of fisheries resource measurement, extension, marine science and fisheries research. In addition, short-term technical assistance would be provided to address development issues and implementation problems relating to location and numbers of marketing centers, cold stores, and surveillance and enforcement of Oman's zone of extended fisheries jurisdiction (200 mile limit)."

The U. S. contribution is a grant of 6.6 million dollars and the Oman government contribution is equivalent to 10.6 million dollars over the five year life of the project.

The inputs are technical assistance and training through two separate contracts. The technical assistance contracts are to provide assistance to:

1. The Directorate General of Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to improve their capability to assess and manage the fisheries resource and provide extension services to the artisanal fishermen as well as to promote commercial fishing and;

2. to establish a Marine Science Center which is presently under construction.

The technical assistance contract to support the Directorate General of Fisheries was signed between the Government of Oman and Resources Development Associates (RDA) in October, 1983.

RDA presently has an eight man team in country providing technical assistance and training to the various departments of the Directorate General of Fisheries.

A contractor for the Marine Science Center has been selected and contract negotiations will take place in early October, 1985.

Under the RDA contract, a plan for reorganizing the Directorate General in line with a comprehensive program approach to the fisheries sector was developed. This plan divided the responsibilities by resource assessment (Statistics Department) resource monitoring and control of artisanal and commercial fishermen (Fisheries Affairs Department), Research (Marine Science Center), infrastructure to support fisheries (e.s. cold stores, ice machines, jetties, ports, etc.) and marketing and processing (Fisheries Development Department) and extension and training (Technical Services and Extension Department).

Each department has identified training needs and designated candidates for short and long term training. The RDA consultants have developed a training plan and identified appropriate universities and institutes for the training.

The RDA team has designed and implemented with the Omanis, a one year sampling program (completed in July of 1985) which will soon be instituted as the ongoing resource assessment program for the Directorate.

Understanding the extent and type of fish, will enable the Omanis to

negotiate additional commercial fishery contracts without fear of overexploiting the fisheries resource. They will authorize limits of catch below the maximum sustainable yield and then monitor the trawler fleets for compliance. The monitoring will be done by the on-board observer program which is presently being designed and established by RDA advisor to the Fisheries Affairs Department.

In addition to the commercial fishery, RDA is providing an advisor to develop and assist in implementing an extension program to the artisanal fishermen. This program will provide advice and better technology to the fishermen to improve their catch and their income. This will provide the incentive to meet the Oman government goal of giving villagers a livelihood in their village so they will not tend to gravitate to the capital city.

RDA has also provided advice on policy and law related to protection of the artisanal fishermen from the trawlers, protection of juvenile and berried lobsters from fishermen, promotion of the private sector, and control of the 200 mile extended economic zone.

During the first two years of implementation, RDA has established work programs for each department and developed the necessary knowledge base and personal relationships necessary for to a successful program. At the completion of the five year project sufficient groundwork will have been laid to merit an additional five year effort to work with the returning Omanis to establish a good foundation for them to build on in managing and promoting the fisheries sector of oman.