

History and development of fishing craft

Development of Fishing Craft

- **Definition**

Fishing vessel is a floating device used for fishing activities like, fishing, fish transportation, research and training purpose.

Development of fishing Craft

No one knows exactly how the first crafts were made or when they were used. It was certainly in prehistoric times but unfortunately there are no remains of these earliest vessels in existence today to tell us anything of their construction or the men who made them. Our prehistoric ancestors soon found some sort of 'boat' essential as a means of crossing rivers and navigating inland water ways. Initially the problems would almost certainly have been solved by the use of floating logs. Primitive man would sit astride the floating tree trunk and either row with his hands or use tree branches or pieces of bark as paddles. This crude form of transport was improved upon by the development of the stable raft. It consists of several tree trunks tied together with strings. This type of boat is called "CATAMARAN".



Raft



Catamaran

These crafts however remained too slow, heavy and unwieldy. Soon came realization – perhaps from observation of the shape of a fish that, more stream lined vessel would move through the water more easily. Thus the canoe was developed made from a single hollowed out log with the refinements of a sharpened bow and stern. This is called as “DUGOUT CANOE”. Suitable logs were probably hollowed out by burning or by chipping away the wood with primitive tools.

Powers used for the propulsion of fishing craft

There are three powers used for the movement of fishing vessel.

- Manual power
- Wing power
- Mechanical power

Limitations of Indigenous craft:

Cannot possible for go to deep water

- It is not possible to catch large quantities of fish
- Cannot meet the demand of fish
- It increases the cost of fish
- Propulsion by wind or oar – speed is less
- Limited carrying capacity
- Requires good weather conditions
- No proper preservation facilities
- No facilities for crews for cooking and sleeping etc.,

Advantages of mechanized craft:

- Mechanical propulsion – Higher speed, shorter time to reach the fishing grounds.
- Fish holds with preservation facilities.
- There will be safety and good working environment.
- Possibilities of bulk catching

Factors influencing in fishing craft development

- i) Topographical factor
- ii) Geographical and physical influences
- iii) Distance and fishery
- iv) Availability of boat building material
- v) Harbour development

Classification of fishing craft

- a) Based on depth of operation
- b) Size of the vessel and duration of voyage
- c) Construction of hull
- d) Materials used for construction
- e) Based on Gross – Registered Tonnage
- f) Area of operation of the vessel
- g) Based on their function
- h) Non fishing vessel