

MADRAS FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1926-27



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FOR THE YEAR

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BY

B. SUNDARA RAJ, M.A., Ph.D.
Director of Fisheries, Madras

Report No. 1 of 1928

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MADRAS

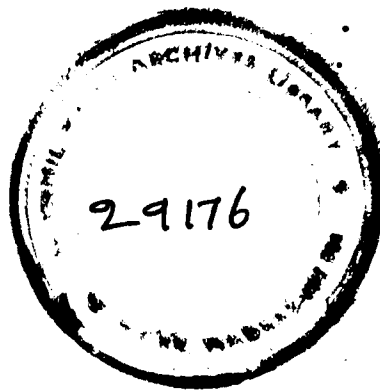
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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
1. Introduction	1-2
2. Personnel	3
3. Chaliyam Fish Cannery	3
4. Tanur Experimental Station	6
5. Experiments and Research	9
6. Private Oil and Guano Factories	12
7. Pearl and Chank Fisheries	13
I. Pearl Fisheries	14
II. Chank Fisheries	24
i. Tinnevely Chank Fishery	24
ii. Rāmnād Chank Fishery	25
iii. Coromandel Fishery	26
III. Advances to divers	27
IV. Fishery Vessels	28
V. Revival of the Chank Bangle Industry	29
8. Inland Pisciculture	30
Fish Farms	32
Incomplete Schemes	35
Experiments and Research	35
9. Public Fish-curing Yards	39
10. The "Lady Goschen"	46
11. Marine Aquarium	55
12. Fishery Research	58
13. Fish Statistics	63
14. Oyster and Marine Biological Specimen Supply	65
15. Socio-economic Work	69
Education	69
Temperance and Socio-economic Work	75
16. Miscellaneous	80
17. Statements	83-94
18. Government Order	95-99

ILLUSTRATIONS.

	PAGE
1. The late Mr. H. C. Wilson	<i>Frontispiece.</i>
2. Plan of Vellore Fort Moat Fish Farm ...	34
3. An experimental haul, mostly <i>Labeo</i> , caught by a drag net in the Mopad Reservoir. Bimlipatam Fish-curing Yard, Vizaga- patam District	43
4. Avalanche Trout Hatchery (front view). Avalanche Trout Hatchery (interior view).	38

Report No. 1 of 1928.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
FISHERIES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 1927

BY

Dr. B. SUNDARA RAJ,

Director of Fisheries.

I have the honour to submit the Administration Report of the Fisheries Department for the year ending 30th June 1927. The record achievements of last year have been in some respects eclipsed by those of the year under review. The most outstanding events of the year were the two remarkably successful Pearl Fisheries in the autumn of 1926 and the spring of 1927. In the whole history of Ceylon and Indian Pearl Fisheries, no more than a single fishery in the spring was considered possible in any year. Due to unusual good weather and the experience gained in the annual chank fishery off Tuticorin, a pearl fishery was conducted for the first time in the months of November and December. This small fishery proved unusually successful and on all accounts the best among the minor fisheries that have been held in recent years. The gross receipts amounted to Rs. 31,386. The fishery held in February, March and April 1927, however, yielded the largest revenue realized in any fishery during the last 100 years and is the second largest known. Though the usual difficulties, such as wrong location of banks, incorrect estimate of the number of oysters, disappointing and discouraging yield of pearls and the almost inevitable advent of epidemics which had marred the administration of pearl fisheries in the past, had been successfully circumvented, unprecedented handicaps beyond human control such as unusual bad weather throughout, labour troubles and strike among divers and sudden depreciation in the market value of pearls a few weeks prior to the fishery conspired to whittle down the revenue

