

## Instructions on the Issue of Fishery Cooperatives (March 5, 1951)

Report on the Work Arrangements for 1951 to Chairman Mao, the Central Committee, and the Central Bureaus and Sub-bureaus:

The Second National Fisheries Conference convened by the Ministry of Agriculture [85] has concluded. The following is a summary of 1950 and a brief report on the production tasks for 1951:

In 1950, the national aquatic output reached 910,000 tons, exceeding the original plan of 730,000 tons by 25 percent. Aquatic administrative agencies were established in major regions and provinces such as East China, Central South China and Hebei. Aquatic companies and transportation and marketing companies were taken over and reorganized. Fish markets were established and reorganized. More than 450 cooperatives were established to help fishermen solve their difficulties, facilitate transportation and marketing, reduce middlemen exploitation, increase fishermen's income, and improve fishermen's enthusiasm for life and production. The East China Aquatic Company and fish markets paid 3.79 billion yuan in profits [93], and the Guandong Aquatic Company had paid 600 million yuan.

The policy for 1951 remained focused on recovery, aiming to restore production to the pre-war level of 150 tons within two years. The production targets for 1951 were 500,000 tons in East China, 360,000 tons in Central and Southern China, 140,000 tons in Northeast China, and 100,000 tons in Hebei and Tianjin, for a total of 1.1 million tons nationwide, representing a 22% increase over 1950.

To ensure the completion of production tasks, the following work must be done:

I. Vigorously organize fishermen's mutual aid groups and cooperatives, support fishermen's production and supply and marketing organizations, and assist in organizing mass organizations such as fishermen's associations and fishery trade unions.

Second, organize the transportation and marketing of aquatic products in a planned manner, organize joint transportation and marketing agencies, report on production and marketing situation, unify transportation and marketing plans, encourage processing, organize order contracts, and coordinate the national transportation and marketing work.

Third, strengthen the management of fish markets, control fish prices, regulate production and sales, and reduce excessive exploitation by fishmongers through administrative management to protect the interests of producers and consumers. Management fees levied on fish markets are generally between one and three percent and should be gradually reduced.

Fourth, state-owned aquatic product enterprises must strengthen management, implement economic accounting systems, and cooperate with public and private enterprises, trade departments, cooperatives, and other organizations to carry out processing, transportation, and sales operations.

V. Local aquatic product agencies did not have fixed staffing, which affected their work. Localities may propose necessary staffing plans as needed, which shall be reviewed by the Military and Political Committee of the Greater Administrative Region and submitted to the Central Government Administration Council for approval and implementation.

Central Financial and Economic Affairs Commission

93 This refers to the Renminbi in circulation at that time. The People's Bank of China issued new Renminbi on March 1, 1955, replacing the previously circulating currency. One new yuan was equal to ten thousand old yuan.