

# Al Quseir Fishing Centre. Pt. 2: Establishment of the cooperative fishing centre and its socio-economic implications



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## **Fragmento:**

The Al Quseir area was chosen as the site to set up a pioneer cooperative fishing Centre as a model to be applied in developing other fishing regions, located along the Red Sea coast, through governmental or local organizations. The components of the proposed Centre and the available facilities were determined in the light of the conclusions reached in the socio-economic survey conducted in the region. An administrative system was established, with the actual participation of the fishermen's representatives, to draw up policies and decisions related to the Centre. Similarly, this system entails the participation of the fishermen in handling the daily activities of the Centre in order to ensure the formation of competent cadres of fishermen capable of managing the Centre without external assistance. So far, the activities of the Centre have focused on the mechanization of fishing boats, improvement in their construction, in addition to providing repair and maintenance services and means for transporting fish and ice. Similarly, the activities focused on improving the handling, processing and marketing of fish. Also an attempt has been made to provide some basic social services. After providing such facilities a field experiment was conducted. It consisted of establishing a cooperative fishing camp in one of the

southern areas of the Egyptian coast with the objective of identifying on-the-spot problems related to the exploitation of the southern regions from which it is hoped to increase the Egyptian catch from the Red Sea. Besides, the experiment aims at finding means for dealing with these problems through cooperative action by using existing local facilities in order to increase fish production and consequently enhance the fishermen's incomes. The experiment increased the fishermen's monthly incomes about fourfold. This, in turn, convinced fishermen of the advantage of cooperative action and of increasing the financial resources of the cooperative society which led to the improvement in the services it offers to fishermen, and controlled the exploitation of small fishermen by middlemen. It also emphasized the success of the concept of the cooperative fishing Centre as an approach to developing small-scale fishing communities.

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