

CHAPTER VI

INCOME

The income fishermen during a certain period depends on the volume and the value of their landings within that period. These two factors vary according to weather, seasonal change, current, locality and market conditions (interaction of supply and demand) as well as other unpredictable forces.

In the period of less than three months, it was impossible for the writer ^{to} calculate fishermen's income on the basis described above. However, from a number of enquiries and daily income record of some crew members an attempt can be made to compare various fishermen's levels of income.

A. Sources of Income

There are direct and indirect sources which constitute the income of fishermen who practise the traditional distribution.

1. Indirect Source.

- (a) Ikan Luan and Ikan ~~Makan Lank~~ for Pukat Tangkol Ikan.
- (b) " Tangkap for Pukat Payang
- (c) " ~~Makan Lank~~ for other fishing methods.

There is a good deal of dependence upon this source for daily expenditure among the community. The amount acquired from here varies according to fishing methods.

(a) Pukat Tangkol Ikan

The receipt from the sale of Ikan Luan contributes a significant amount to the total income of an awak. The following record shows daily indirect income of four members of Pukat Tangkol Ikan, who were employed in four separate undertakings.

Table 27

The Indirect Income of four Tangkol Awak
at Sebrang Buaya.

(in \$)

Awak	Date	Daily Sale of Ikan Luan						Total
		Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	
A	24 - 29 in Aug. '57	1.50	-	3.50	-	2.00	2.70	9.70
B	"	-	.70	2.50	x ¹	1.00	.30	4.50
C	"	x ²	1.75	.50	-	-	1.25	3.50
D	"	.70	-	-	1.90	-	4.20	6.80
Total		2.20	2.45	6.50	1.90	3.00	8.45	24.50

x¹ not fishing due to Juru Selam indisposed.

x² net under repair.

The above table shows the wide range of indirect income received by the four members. It also reveals the inconsistency of days when 'Ikan Luan' is shared among crew of a particular boat.¹

Another subsidiary source of indirect income come from 'Ikan Makan Lank', taken home on each fishing day by every member of a Tangkol Ikan unit. Its value is estimated at 25¢ to \$1.00.

(b) Pukat Payang

Payang crew seem to enjoy the largest amount of indirect income compared to majority fishermen operating other fishing gears.

1. The Ikan Luan is taken by turns by each boat; see page 28

A close investigation of four Payang units at Tanjong Telok revealed that an awak depended his livelihood more from indirect income (Ikan Tangkap) than direct one. On the whole, the Payang crew belong to the highest income group among fishermen. Unfortunately, the gear is in operation in relatively short season.¹

Table 28

The Indirect Income of Four Payang Awak
at Tanjong Telok
(in \$)

Awak	Date	Daily Sale of Ikan Luan						Total
		Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	
A	3 - 8 in Aug. '57	.50	1.70	4.50	3.90	4.00	2.90	17.50
B	"	1.25	90	2.75	70	x ¹	2.70	8.30
C	10-15 in Aug. '57	4.50	2.50	50	2.50	1.75	3.75	15.50
D	"	.70	x ¹	2.30	4.70	2.90	1.15	11.75
Total		6.95	5.10	10.05	11.80	8.65	10.50	53.05

x¹ net under repair.

The four Payang awak's average income ^{per week} is about \$13.25¢ compared to \$6.12¢ that of the Tangkol crew.

(c) Other Fishing Methods

There is no specific custom which permits members to acquire more fish than required for domestic consumption. They might sell some of the fish for petty cash or exchange them for firewood, coconut and other cooking requirements.

1. See Table 5.

2. Direct Source

Earnings that are accumulated and distributed after a certain time (normally one week) on some principles as described in the previous chapters, are defined as Direct Source of fishermen's income.

B. Comparison of Income

Although all members belonging to the same fishing unit may receive more or less the same amount of indirect income, their total income would be different from one another.

Differences in their earnings arise from the following reasons:

- (i) share of capital equipment,
- (ii) Skill and efficiency;
- (iii) Continuity in work;
- (iv) Number of crew participating in a unit, and,
- (v) Special increment.

Assuming (iii) and (iv) as constant for a week, and (v) is ignored, it is then possible to analyse the differences in direct income received by different members within a cooperative undertaking under various distribution principles.¹

1. "Bagi Lima" Principle

e.g. Pukat Tangkol Ikan.

Given : \$897.60¢ as earnings in a week.

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1. For this purpose, it is also assumed that the Bahagian Mula has been deducted from the given value of Petak fish or earnings and that the value per share is constant at \$16 - 32 in all fishing units.

Table 29

Comparison of Direct Income received by

Pukat Tangkol Ikan Crew

at Sebrang Buaya

(in \$)

	Weekly Earning Distribution			Total	%
	Body	Skill	Ownership of Equip.		
Juru Selam	32.64	119.68	239.36	391.68	43.64
Jeragan Net Boat	16.32	3.26	16.32	35.90	4.01
Jeragans (4 others)	65.28 (16.32x4)	-	65.28 (16.32x4)	130.56	14.54
Juru Tarang	16.32	16.32		32.64	3.63
Awak Net Boat (4)	65.28 (16.32x4)	13.04 (3.26x4)		78.32	8.73
Awak (14)	228.48 (16.32x14)	-		228.48	25.46
Total	424.32	152.30	320.98	897.58	100.01

According to this distributive principle, the Juru Selam gets \$32.64 (2 shares) for his "tuboh" (body) and another \$119.68 for skill. An awak, on the other hand, receives only \$16.32 (1 share) or 1.8% of the total earnings.

Yet, if the leader is also the owner of the gear, he will get another \$239.36, making a lion's share of \$391.68 or 43.64%. In this, the most important is fishing gear. Its initial cost and maintenance are heavy, while rate of depreciation and degree of risks are great. Hence, the tangkol net is normally owned jointly by several persons.

An ordinary Jeragan gets an income of \$32.64 or 3.63% derived from his body and boat share. In this case, while Juru Tarang gets his skill share, the four Jaragans are denied of it.

2. "Bagi Tiga" Principle

eg. Pukat Payang

Given: \$600/- as earnings in a week.

Table 30

Comparison of Direct Income received by

Pukat Payang Crew

at Tanjong Telok

(in \$)

	Weekly Earning Distr.			Total	%
	Body	Skill	Ownership of Equipment		
Juru Selam	32.64	61.23	122.45	216.32	36.04
Jeragan	16.32	16.32	16.32	48.96	8.16
Juru Timba	16.32	16.32		32.64	5.44
" Tarang	16.32	16.32		32.64	5.44
" Luang	16.32	18.16		24.48	4.08
Awak (15)	244.80 (16.32x15)	-		244.80	40.8 (2.72x15)
Total	342.72	118.35	138.77	599.84	99.96

In the above principle, Juru Selam receives definite "body" and skill shares of \$93.87, compared to \$16.32 acquired by an awak. The Jeragan is given an extra share for skill here, this giving him \$32.64 plus another share if he owns the boat

or half share if he doesnot. As usual, Juru Timba and Tarang get an extra share each for skill and Juru Luang half the share.

The net which carries an amount of \$122.45 may be owned by Juru Selam solely or together with other "officers" of the unit. Whether it is owned by the owner-operator or not, the whole amount normally goes to him as "net" sum since in the Payang system, the fund for upkeep of the net (Chabut Cnerak) - such as repairing and dyeing - is deducted from the total receipts.¹

3. "Bagi Dua" Principle

eg. Pukat Dalam.

Given: \$522.25² as earnings in a week.

Table 31

Comparison of Direct Income received by
Pukat Dalam Crew at Sebrang Takir
 (in \$)

	Weekly Earning Distribution			Total	%
	Body	Skill	Ownership of Equipment.		
Jeragan	16.32	65.28	130.56+16.32	228.48	43.75
Juru Tarang I	16.32	16.32		32.64	6.25
" Tarang II	16.32	8.16		24.48	4.69
" " III	16.32	8.16		24.48	4.69
" Luang I	16.32	8.16		24.48	4.69
" " II	16.32	8.16		24.48	4.69
Awak (10)	163.30			163.20	31.26
TOTAL	261.12	144.24	146.88	522.24	100.02

1. See Division of Earnings in Pk. Payang, Table 13.

In the "Bagi Dua" principle, shares for various types of skill are acquired from Bahagian Dalam. The remaining sum forms the returns for capital equipment, net and boat, as well as the skill share of the Jeragan.

The Jeragan will acquire ^{an} amount of \$89.76 or 17.24% (i.e. body, skill and $\frac{1}{2}$ boat's shares). However in most cases he also owns the net and in boat. In this situation, he gets a full amount of \$228.48 or 43.75% of the earnings after deducting the 'bahagian mula.' Unlike the Pukat Payang, the net owner has to pay for the repair and maintenance of his gear. Hence, it is noted that there is no share for Juru Tiaba in the distribution.

Other "officers" except for Juru Tarang I, acquire $\frac{1}{2}$ share each for skill, making a total earning of \$24.48 or 4.7%. As for the awak, each of them gets a share, equivalent to \$16.32 or 3.12% of the total income.

4. "Bagi Sama" Principle

eg. Hook and Line Fishing

Given: \$53.86 as earnings in a week.

Table 32

Comparison of Direct Income received by
Hook and Line Fishing Crew
at Sebrang Takir
(in \$)

	Weekly Earning Distribution			Total	%
	Body	Skill	Ownership of Equipment		
Jeragan	16.32	-	4.90	21.22	39.38
Awak (2)	32.64	-	-	32.64	60.57
TOTAL	48.96		4.90	53.86	99.95

As can be expected, this principle gives an equal amount of income among the crew. The Jeragan gets only about 10% above others for his boat.

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