

COOPERATIVE STUDY OF THE KUROSHIO AND ADJACENT REGIONS (CSK) AND ITS IMPACT ON FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT IN SOME PARTS OF THE WESTERN PACIFIC

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Cooperative Study of the Kuroshio and Adjacent Regions (CSK) was the programme initiated by the Intergovernmental Oceanic Commission (IOC). CSK had dual purposes: one was of course, to develop scientific knowledge concerning the Kuroshio and its adjacent region, and the other was to promote the spirit of cooperation among marine scientists in the countries concerned. Its main tasks were the cooperative studies on physical, chemical, and biological oceanography of the Western Pacific, including fishery researches and studies as an important element of its activities. Since the inception of CSK in 1962, there had been several cooperation and programmes. Four symposia were organized. The first one was in Hawaii, followed by Tokyo, Bangkok (1973), and the fourth symposium (1979) was in Tokyo, which served as springboard for future activity of WESTPAC. CSK also extended close cooperation with the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFC) on fishery aspects. The four mentioned symposia yielded knowledge on the status of fishery resources and the fisheries exploiting them as well as the effects of the environment on the fluctuations in the abundance of the fishery resources in the CSK area. Under the cooperation, series of synopses were prepared by FAO on commercially important species in CSK area. The knowledge thus obtained was valuable in national and regional fisheries development and planning in particular in the formulation of the proposal for the South China Sea Fisheries Development and Coordinating Programme (SCSP). As regards the sub-regional level, countries around the Gulf of Thailand had experienced better understanding of the fisheries oceanography of the gulf, and resulted in a proper fishery management on both pelagic and demersal resources.