

REPORT OF COMPLETED PROJECT  
Report on Sonar Operators' Course 1973

The Sonar Operators' Course was conducted under the auspices of and with the facilities provided by the Fisheries Branch of the N.S.W. Chief Secretary's Department between 10 and 21 September, 1973.

Participants (see Appendix A) were selected on the basis of wide government and industrial representation, together with an assessment of each individual's ability to pass on information gained from the course.

The syllabus and timetable (see Appendix B) were both adhered to with only minor variations.

The depth of treatment was well chosen in as much as it did not go beyond the level of comprehension of the participants and yet it was of sufficient complexity to motivate and stimulate interest.

Much of the credit for the success of the course must go to the capable delivery by all lecturers. Particular mention, in this instance, must be made of Mr. H. Erlandson whose practical experience and understanding of the operation of echo sounders and sonar was most evident to all concerned.

The only criticism of the course was the insoluble problem of space limitation on board the R.V. "Kapala" for practical instruction on the sonar and echo sounders. This problem, however, was somewhat offset by an impromptu radar observers' course being conducted by Mr. H. Rogers in conjunction with the practical demonstrations on the sonar and echo sounders.

All participants praised the hospitality of their hosts which was instrumental in maintaining a most agreeable environment conducive to attaining the course objectives.

The actual success of the course can only be measured in terms of the extent to which the training obtained by the participants is passed on to the industry. Present indications suggest that it has been a success and that future courses of this type are a highly desirable development in extension services to the fishing industry.