

that is, concentrate on some specific aspect. Rightly or wrongly, they have chosen the banking and financial system as their focus and stuck to it. In his own work in this field, the reviewer has chosen communications and information as a point of departure, and has given more emphasis to geopolitical factors, and especially to the transformation of manufacturing-intensive economies to information-intensive and service-oriented economies. Services, for instance, involve more than financial services. In the US today, services of an untold number of types account for a high percentage of jobs and a goodly portion of the Gross National Product.

Modern banking and financial systems are as good a point of departure as any in attempting to understand these complexities, and the above comments are not meant to detract from the book's value. Daly and Logan have had the courage to tackle the important subject of interdependence, which badly needs to be better understood by decision makers. Policy makers need to understand that interdependence has its costs, but that it also provides major opportunities. Large nations, such as the US, need badly to realise that they no longer fully control their own destiny, a fact of which small nations have long been aware. This is an uncomfortable and painful fact, but once understood, it is possible to see that interdependence gives the skillful much room for manoeuvre.

The progress that has been made in Asian Newly Industrialised Countries is almost unbelievable, but so are their dependencies and fragilities. Seen in a global context, we are all, large nations and small, in the same boat. Instability and unpredictability are the order of the day in an interdependent world.

Since this is a trade book rather than a scholarly treatise, it would have been even more useful if the authors had dared to speculate a little more about future trends and especially had given us some indication of how to approach policy in the context they describe. The book is easy reading, and there are few authors who treat this subject in a readable way. It is therefore a shame that *The Brittle Rim* is available only with great difficulty in the United States.

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Casting the Net: Post-Harvest Technologies and Opportunities in the Fishing Industry by Australian Science and Technology Council (ASTEC)
(Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1988)

The realisation by the Australian Government that a major part of future growth in the value of Australian fisheries production will need to come from activities at the post-harvest stage, provided the major impetus for the formation of a working party of the Technological Change Committee of ASTEC. *Casting the Net* is the result of a study which was undertaken by the working party during 1987 and 1988.

With most established fisheries now fully or over exploited, and the size of the potential catch in developing fisheries unknown and unlikely to be significant, the report notes that these circumstances provide little room for growth in the value of Australian fisheries from the catching sector. The main message conveyed

by the report is that much better returns could be obtained from the current catch. Although the catching sector of the fishing industry has grown rapidly in value and sophistication over the last decade, the bulk of its revenue comes from a small range of high value, largely unprocessed products, such as prawns and rock lobsters, which are sold in a limited number of markets.

Two criteria are important in assessing the effectiveness of such a report. First, the report should fulfil the requirements of the terms of reference of the committee requesting the review. Secondly, it is important to judge the follow-up action, in industry and/or government, which resulted from the recommendations of the report.

The ASTEC report clearly meets its committee's terms of reference. However, it has not been particularly effective in generating follow-up action, despite a very wide airing and some concerted debate. *Australian Fisheries* magazine published an overview of the report in December 1988 and followed with coverage of comments from government and industry officials in January 1989. At that time, the report was also discussed at a workshop convened at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College and attended by leading Australian seafood technologists and senior government and industry fisheries representatives. *Australian Fisheries* reported on the outcome of that workshop in February 1989.

The report is well presented, easy to read and contains recommendations to government and suggestions to industry which cover a range of options for encouraging and supporting the development of post-harvest initiatives. The first chapter provides background to the Australian fishing industry and thus the context in which this report was compiled. Subsequent chapters elaborate on the enquiries made by the working party and contribute greatly to an appreciation of the fishing industry and the considerations which gave rise to the key report recommendations. Topics covered include the government's role and responsibilities, fisheries management and production, foreign involvement, fisheries research and development, marketing and promotion, processing technologies, quality assurance and skills training, transport, and finally aquaculture.

The specific recommendations presented in the report seek to redress the current situation. Government and industry are encouraged to incorporate post-harvest concerns within the various fisheries management plans. CSIRO is identified as the most appropriate body to establish a Seafood Technology Centre with national responsibilities for fisheries post-harvest research and development. The establishment of a national body having responsibility for market research and promotion of Australian fisheries products on local and export markets is also suggested. Another recommendation highlights the need for the Commonwealth and State governments to conduct workshops aimed at encouraging seafood processors and members of other industry sectors to explore the potential for value added processing of fisheries product and by-product. The report acknowledges the need for proper education and training for the catching, processing and marketing sectors, and sees a very definite role for government and the National Fishing Industry Training Council in developing appropriate courses within the TAFE system. The final specific recommendation relates to the need for the Commonwealth and State governments to review the current status and future directions of Australian aquaculture in order to plan for the infrastructure needed to support and encourage industry growth.

The options identified in the report for encouraging and supporting fisheries post-harvest development are, in the words of the report itself, "intended as

subjects for discussion between government and industry" and are hoped to "generate action as well as debate". It would be difficult for the report to be any more positive than this. It is widely recognised that the fishing industry is highly fragmented and lacking the necessary sense of identity that would enable it to develop a united approach to an issue such as post-harvest technology. Traditional industry concerns in relation to government involvement and the associated user-pays implications, together with the professional and competitive independence of industry groups, are seen as factors which will moderate enthusiastic industry support and participation.

To allay industry concerns and to have this issue pursued in a co-operative spirit, the Commonwealth and State governments will perhaps need to accept from the outset the more passive role of monitoring and guiding and, in this context, to encourage industry to produce its own co-ordinated strategy and priorities for action. Recommendations on how this scenario might best be achieved are not covered by the report.

This brings us back to the question of judging the effectiveness of this report. It is now more than 12 months since *Casting the Net* was published and the sad truth is that the extensive and thorough groundwork done by ASTEC has thus far amounted to little. For a short time in early 1989, the debate it raised was intense but largely lacking substantive direction, being predicated on a wait and see what the government does approach. The report was not directed at industry and so industry has not responded, except to contribute to the debate.

One suggestion that may help precipitate timely and substantial follow-up action in any further ASTEC inquiry is to include on the review committee at least some members of the industry and specialist technologies involved. The fisheries post-harvest technology review group did not include expertise in either. Although industry and government specialists were widely consulted, this was obviously not sufficient to harness effectively their collective expertise in a way that would produce a more positive outcome.

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Life Among the Scientists: An Anthropological Study of an Australian Scientific Community by Max Charlesworth, Lyndsay Farrall, Terry Stokes and David Turnbull

(Oxford University Press, Melbourne 1989) pp.viii + 304, \$19.95, ISBN 0 19 554999 6

Life Among the Scientists addresses an important and interesting (a somewhat unusual juxtaposition) issue; indeed it is an important book. That is not to say, however, that this reviewer regarded the book as being a particularly enjoyable read or that it reveals much that is new or wildly exciting about that rather small, but nevertheless very important group of scientists at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research. Although the style of writing in the first person,