

## WHAT WE LEARNT FROM RAGHU

1. Too many of our craft must not fish in the same area — particularly those that fish in the shallow water close to the shore.



2. If we catch too many baby fish and shrimp there will not be enough left in the sea to grow big and produce more young ones.

3. Adult fish and larger-sized fish are generally found at distances where the depth is greater than 20 m.



4. We must stop using nets with very, very small mesh, dragnets, boat-seines and beach-seines because with these gear we catch too many young ones.
5. Active fishing methods cost more because they need high-powered engines, more fuel, generally larger boats and more expensive gear. With active gear and methods, we take away too many fish in a short time. If we are not careful about this today, there will be less fish for us traditional fisherfolk tomorrow, **and one day there may not be enough fish left for anyone to catch.**

## WHAT WE CAN DO

1. Avoid buying new small *kattumarams*. Replace damaged or old small *kattumarams* with larger *kattumarams*.



2. Study the seasons when baby fish come too close to the shore. Avoid fishing there at that time. Fish in shallow water only when shoals of small varieties of fish seasonally move close to the shore.
3. Take our large *kattumarams* farther out, **catch bigger fish with bigger mesh size nets or hooks and lines** and earn more money. If sailing with the help of the wind is difficult, we should, where possible, use a motor. All other types of craft should fish well beyond, using nets and hooks and lines, for other types of fish which cannot be caught by the *kattumarams*. There will be fewer problems of competition and, therefore, fewer quarrels amongst us fisherfolk.



4. We should replace our damaged small mesh nets and boat-seines with gear having bigger mesh.
5. Try and use, as far as possible, passive gear with larger mesh and passive fishing methods.

Look out for our next picture story book. In it I will tell you about the life stories of some of the commercially important fish we catch. For instance, I will tell you how a shrimp is born and where it grows and becomes a big shrimp. These stories will help you to catch fish that will bring you high prices.

**RAGHU**

