

# BOBP-IGO Posters Promote Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

*Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*  
**Enhance fish stocks**



Artificial reefs (ARs) and fish aggregation devices (FADs) are important tools for increasing fish stocks and enhancing fishing opportunities. Establishment of ARs and FADs should be worked out within the framework of coastal area management plans and should take into account the interests of fishers, including artisanal and subsistence fishers. They should be placed with due regard to the safety of navigation, on or above the seabed or at the surface.



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**Avoid pollution of fish habitats**



Fish habitats should be protected from destruction, degradation, pollution and other significant impacts resulting from human activities that threaten the health and viability of the fishery resources. The owners and crew of fishing vessels should ensure that discharges of waste do not cause major pollution.



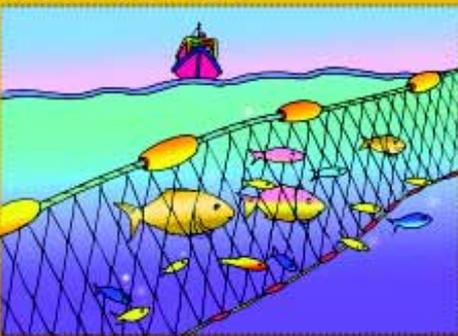
*Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*  
**Keep fishing harbours clean**



Fishing harbours and landing centers should be safe havens for fishing vessels. They should provide adequate servicing facilities for vessels, vendors and buyers. Arrangements for hygiene and safety supplies, waste disposal systems including for the disposal of oil, only water and fishing gear should be provided. Pollution from fisheries activities and external sources should be minimized.



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**Use selective fishing gear**



Fishing methods and gear should be selective, environmentally safe and designed to minimize waste and promote high survival rates for escaping fish. Fishing gear and practices that are not selective or which cause high levels of waste should be discouraged and phased out. This would allow conservation of biodiversity and reduce impacts on associated or dependent species.



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**Promote co-management**



Co-management, where the government and fishing communities work together, should be implemented wherever possible – it can be the most effective mechanism in developing sustainable fishery. In view of the multiple uses of the coastal areas, representatives of the fisheries sector and fishing communities should also be consulted in the decision-making processes and involved in other activities related to coastal area management planning and development.



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**Minimize post-harvest losses**



The harvesting, handling, processing and distribution of fish and fishery products should be carried out in a manner which will maintain the nutritional value, quality, and safety of the products, reduce waste and minimize negative impacts on the environment. By-catch should be utilized as much as possible to the extent that this is consistent with responsible fisheries management practices. Appropriate measures should be adopted to ensure the right of consumers to safe, wholesome and unadulterated fish and fishery products.



The Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries sets out principles and standards of behaviour for responsible fisheries and aquaculture practices. The BOBP-IGO has brought out a dozen posters to dramatize the Code's messages, such as: Enhance fish stocks. Avoid pollution of fish habitats. Ban destructive fish practices. Avoid overfishing. Encourage people's participation. Use selective fishing gear. Promote co-management. The posters will be widely distributed in the member-countries.

### Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

#### Ban destructive fishing practices

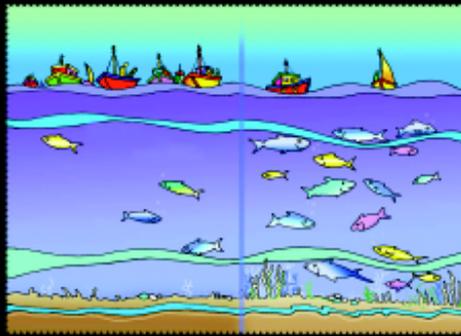


The right to fish carries with the obligation to do so in a responsible manner so as to ensure effective conservation and management of the living aquatic resources. Dredging, poisoning and other destructive fishing practices should be strictly prohibited. Effective legal and administrative frameworks should be established at the local and national level, as appropriate, for fisheries resource conservation and management.



### Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

#### Avoid overfishing



The fishing fleet should not be too large to exhaust the renewable supply of fish. Where excess fishing capacity exists, mechanisms should be established to reduce capacity so that fishing effort is commensurate with the productive capacity of the primary resources and their sustainable utilization. Management measures to promote responsible fisheries should include monitoring, control and surveillance. This would ensure the effectiveness of conservation and management measures.



### Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

#### Encourage people's participation



Coastal communities and organizations concerned with fishing should be encouraged to share their views and opinions on fishing issues. Public awareness should be created on the need for the protection and management of coastal resources and the participation of the local communities in the management process. Fishers should also be educated and trained so that they can be involved in developing and implementing policies to ensure sustainable fisheries now and in future.



### Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

#### Protect critical fish habitats



Important fish habitats such as wetlands, mangroves, coral reefs and lagoons, should be protected from destruction and pollution. These habitats are rich in biodiversity, provide breeding and nursery areas for many fish and shellfish species and are vital for fisheries resource conservation. They also protect the coastal communities from natural disasters such as cyclones, wave surges and tsunamis.



### Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

#### Collect and record data



Timely, complete and reliable statistics on catch and fishing effort should be collected and maintained in sufficient detail to improve scientific and technical knowledge of fisheries including their interactions with the ecosystem. Investigations in support of fishery conservation and management should be promoted, including research on the resources and on the effects of climatic, environmental and socio-economic factors. The results of such research should be widely disseminated.



### Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

#### Ensure Safety and health of fishers



Fishing facilities and equipment as well as all fisheries activities should allow for safe, healthy and fair working and living conditions and meet internationally agreed standards on conditions of work and service. Fishing vessels should carry communication and safety equipment and fishers should be adequately trained for their safety at sea. See safety issues should be comprehensively integrated into fisheries policy and management frameworks.

