



BOBP



Norway

Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project Phase II (BOBLME II)

Consultative Meeting for
**Preparing Scoping Report and EAFM Plan
for Set-Bagnet Fishery in
Central Coastal Bangladesh**

18 December 2025

Jagorani Chakro Foundation, Barguna, Bangladesh



1.0 Background

The Bay of Bengal is known for its biodiversity and natural resources, which are crucial for the region's economy and livelihood, particularly in fisheries and aquaculture. For sustaining the resources, the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project Phase I developed the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) jointly with countries bordering Bay of Bengal. Under the BOBLME Project Phase II (BOBLME II), the SAP is being implemented through the project titled, “Sustainable management of fisheries, marine living resources and their habitats in the Bay of Bengal region for the benefit of coastal states and communities”. The project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) and implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO). The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO, for its member-countries), and Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC, for countries part of BOBLME project) are the executing agencies of the project. BOBP-IGO is implementing the project in Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka.

2.0 Implementation of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM)

One of the main activities of the Project is to implement the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) in at least two sites in each country. EAFM aims to balance ecological health, human well-being, and good governance. It addresses the complex interactions within ecosystems, recognizing the interdependence of species, habitats, and human activities. EAFM promotes sustainable fisheries through adaptive management, integrating ecological, social, and economic considerations. Stakeholder participation and collaborative decision-making are central to its success. The approach emphasizes the need for scientific data, traditional knowledge, and effective governance. EAFM fosters resilience against external pressures, ensuring long-term resource sustainability and community benefits.

3.0 Set-Bagnet Fishery in Central Coastal Bangladesh as the Fishery Management Unit for implementation of EAFM

In the National Consultative Workshop held in Dhaka in February 2024, the “Set-Bagnet (SBN) Fishery in Central Coastal Bangladesh” was selected as one of the Fishery Management Units (FMUs) for implementing EAFM. The selection was made by experts and representatives from government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other key stakeholders. As an FMU designated for EAFM, it encompasses key fishery resources, habitats, and associated human activities. The SBN fishery is an artisanal, fixed-gear fishery that contributes significantly to coastal livelihoods and is operated using small canoes, motorized boats, and commercial small boats along extensive stretches of the coastal zone. The SBN fishery targets a wide range of species, including small pelagics, Bombay duck, catfish, sea bass, and shrimps. However, it is often associated with high juvenile and bycatch mortality, raising concerns about its ecological sustainability. Several SBN-specific management measures have been implemented to regulate fishing activities and promote sustainability. All boats must be registered, and those below 15 NT require a fishing permit. Fishing operations are prohibited during a 58-day ban period from April to June and an additional 22-day ban aligned with the lunar phase in the Bangla month of Ashwin. The operation of SBN fishery is not permitted in estuaries, within 10 meters depth along the coastline, or inside hilsa sanctuaries and marine protected areas (MPAs). The manufacture and use of monofilament nets are strictly prohibited, and nets with a codend mesh size smaller than 30 mm are legally banned. The government is currently developing guidelines to further regulate and manage this fishery. Adoption of EAFM will help coordinate management actions, ensure resource sustainability, and enhance livelihoods within the FMU. EAFM approach emphasizes active engagement of local communities, particularly fishers, while providing structured institutional and technical support. Strong stakeholder participation will be crucial in enhancing the legitimacy, ownership, and compliance of EAFM implementation.

4.0 About the Consultative Meeting

Date: 18 December 2025; 10.00 AM – 14:00 PM

Venue: Jagorani Chakro Foundation, D.K.P. Road, Barguna, Bangladesh

Objectives: The Consultative Meeting is a forerunner to the planning process.

The objectives of the Consultative Meeting are to:

- (i) Initiate the process of EAFM scoping and plan preparation;
- (ii) Discuss the work plan for initiating and implementing EAFM in Set-Bagnet (SBN) Fishery in Central Coastal Bangladesh;
- (iii) Identify potential collaborators and stakeholders and connect them with the process; and
- (iv) Identify the capacity development needs for implementing EAFM.

Participation

The consultative meeting will be attended by about 30 participants representing the Department of Fisheries, Forest department, fishers' associations, BFRI, researchers from fisheries universities/colleges, IUCN, Non-Government Organisations and BOBP-IGO.

Expected Outputs & Follow-up Actions

The expected outputs from the consultative meeting are as follows:

- A shared understanding of the EAFM framework and its relevance to Set-Bagnet (SBN) Fishery in Central Coastal Bangladesh;
- A preliminary scoping of the Fishery Management Unit (FMU);
- Identification of key stakeholders and mapping of institutional roles and responsibilities;
- An initial list of priority issues and opportunities for intervention;
- Agreement on the next steps for EAFM planning and coordination.

In addition, the consultative meeting will be facilitating follow-up activities by the BOBP-IGO:

- Preparation of a stakeholder matrix and institutional map;
- Formation of a local coordination mechanism for EAFM planning;
- Organization of field visits and stakeholder consultations in Set-Bagnet (SBN) Fishery in Central Coastal Bangladesh;
- Drafting of a roadmap for EAFM implementation with clearly assigned responsibilities;
- Mobilization of technical support for baseline data collection and capacity development.

For further information, please contact

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Agenda

Venue: Jagorani Chakro Foundation, D.K.P. Road, Barguna, Bangladesh

Date: 18 December 2025 | Time: 10.00 AM – 14:00 PM

18 December 2025

Time	Agenda	Resource
1000-1010	Welcome & Opening remarks	DoF
1010-1030	Self-Introduction of participants	
1030-1100	BOBLME Project & Consultative Meeting Context	BOBP-IGO
1100-1120	Overview of EAFM	BOBP-IGO
1120-1140	EAFM planning and implementation in Set-Bagnet (SBN) Fishery in Central Coastal Bangladesh	BOBP-IGO
1140-1220	Interaction	Participants
1220-1230	Issues and Opportunities for intervention	Participants
1230-1245	Identifying stakeholders & their roles; Establishing Co-management Arrangement	Participants
1245-1330	Assessing Capacity Development Needs	Participants

1330-1330 Lunch

19 December 2025

1000-1700	Visit fish landing centers and interaction with fishers in Set-Bagnet (SBN) Fishery	BOBP-IGO and DoF officials
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