



ICES/FAO Working Group on Fishing Technology and Fish Behaviour (WGFTFB23)

Symposium on  
**Innovations in Fishing Technologies for  
Sustainable and Resilient Fisheries**

13-17 February 2023 | Taj Gateway Hotel, Kochi, India



Organised by



National Fisheries  
Development Board  
Department of Fisheries  
Government of India

In collaboration with





## WGFTFB23 & Symposium on Innovations in Fishing Technologies for Sustainable and Resilient Fisheries

This Symposium is being organized as part of the 23rd meeting of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)-FAO Joint Working Group on Fishing Technology and Fish Behaviour (ICES-FAO WGFTFB).

The primary objective of the ICES-FAO WGFTFB is the incorporation of fishing technology issues and expertise into management advice including, inter alia, the impacts of fishing on the environment (e.g. by-catch, unaccounted fishing mortality, habitat impacts, energy use, greenhouse gas emission).

Since 2013, every third year the ICES-FAO WGFTFB is held in different FAO member countries and the list of events conducted in the preceding years is provided below:

| Year | Host     | Theme   |
|------|----------|---|
| 2013 | Thailand | Impacts of fishing on the environment                                       |
| 2017 | Mexico   | Technology Development and Sustainable Fisheries                            |
| 2019 | China    | Responsible Fishing Technology for Healthy Ecosystems and Clean Environment |

The 2023 annual meeting of **WGFTFB** is being hosted by Department of Fisheries, Government of India and organized by **BOBP-IGO** and **NFDB** in collaboration with ICAR Fisheries Institutes and State Fisheries Universities.

South and Southeast Asia are home to global small-scale fisheries. The fishers are mostly marginal and vulnerable and their choice of technology in relation to appropriate craft and gear is limited by rising input costs, overfishing pressures in nearshore waters and poor access to fisheries resources and finance. The sector seems to be trapped in a self-destructive loop where depleted fish stocks and low catch per unit effort are leading often to the use of harmful fishing gear and practices further deteriorating the condition of the fish stocks.

The major crisis in the marine fisheries sector is evident from depleted fish stocks, habitat destruction coupled with pollution and global warming emphasizing the need for adopting sustainable fishing gear and practices through improved fishing techniques. The choice of technology affects the ecological and social outcomes.

The Symposium will bring together scientists, technical experts and scholars with global experience towards broadening the scope for exchange of learning and cross-fertilization of ideas. It will be contributing to networking and updating research and development agenda. In addition, there would be a scope to evaluate issues facing by the region from a global perspective.

### Objectives

The International Symposium aims at providing a platform for learning from the global experience on eco-friendly, low-carbon fishing technology that can contribute to sustainable fisheries, reduce carbon emission and support sustainable development of the fisheries sector.

The specific objectives include:

- Provide a forum for sharing a global synthesis of scientific knowledge on clean fishing technology and its sustainable use.
- Discuss and review innovations in fishing gear, fishing vessels, fishing methods and maritime communication technologies, to assist sustainable fishing operations;
- Evaluate options for optimizing energy use and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and for minimizing marine plastic litter from fishing operations, and
- Identify appropriate technologies for blue transformation of the small-scale fisheries sector.

## Participants

The event is open for the scientists, research scholars of central, State organizations, fisheries industries, NGOs, regional and international organizations. It is expected that 125-150 national and international delegates will be attending this scientific event.

- About 50+ scientists in the field of fishing technology and fish behavior from the Working Group of ICES-FAO will be attending the Symposium.
- About 5-6 subject matter specialists from FAO would attend the Symposium.
- About 75 scientists / experts from India and other BOB rim countries representing the national fisheries research, academic and management institutions, Senior Government Officials, etc.

## Technical Sessions

Additional side events are also being planned on specialised themes like combating IUU fishing & to promote regional research collaboration. There will be oral and poster sessions along with parallel ones.

## Additional Attractions for Visiting Scientists

The participants from across the world would be provided options to explore Tourism Attractions unique to Kerala, as indicated below:

- Overnight stay in House Boats
- Boating in Vembanad Lake
- Ayurvedic / Yoga Centre Visit/Stay

This will be arranged on cost basis, through Event Management Partners.

## Call for Abstracts & Information to the Presenters

We invite abstracts for two types of presentations viz., Oral Presentations (formal presentations and slides) or Poster Presentations. If time slots for presentations are limited, some oral presentation will be considered for poster presentation.

### Broad Areas / Themes

There is no limitation to the topic of your abstract – apart from relevance for WGFTFB.

Topics could include for example:

- Advancements and innovations in fishing gear and craft
- Research related to aids for navigation, communication and sea safety
- Modelling approaches
- Implementation and implications for fisheries management
- Behaviour of marine living resources related to the catch process
- New ideas, projects and technical solutions

### Submission of Abstracts

- Submissions will be judged on relevance to the working group themes, clarity of thought, data/documentated results, fit within the meeting programme and other criteria.
- Interested presenters should submit an abstract summarizing the proposed presentation and indicating to which (if any) Topic Group the abstract relates to. using the form: <https://wgftfb.org/annual-meeting/abstract-submission/>

### Meeting Registration

All presenters are required to register online at: <https://wgftfb.org/annual-meeting/registration/>

### General Information

Registration is free for WGFTFB members (Regular and Chair-invited members).

- Chair-invited members are invited by the WGFTFB chairs upon presentation of your request. Since ICES has the ambition to be an inclusive organization, the decision to appoint a chair-invited member should be based on the person's scientific expertise.
- Please note that this type of membership is 1-year limited. If you want to become a "chair-invited" member, please complete the form at: <https://wgftfb.org/annual-meeting/how-to-become-a-member-a-member>



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

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and

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For more details on online registration, abstract submission, accommodation, flight, and venue, please visit our website

<https://wgftfb.org/annual-meeting/>

Specific guidelines for participation will be circulated to all invited experts and registered participants, whose papers have been accepted for oral or poster presentations.

### Important dates

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2022 | Deadline for Abstract Submission        |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2023  | Notification of Acceptance of Abstract  |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2023  | Deadline for registration               |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2023  | Deadline for National Report Submission |

Please contact [info@bobpigo.org](mailto:info@bobpigo.org) for any specific information with respect to the International Symposium.



### Symposium Organizing Committee

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**Shri Jatindra Nath Swain, IAS**

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Department of Fisheries, Govt. of India

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Joint Secretary

Department of Fisheries, Govt. of India

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Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

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Senior Executive Director, NFDB

**Mr. Antony Xavier**

Fisheries Development Commissioner

Department of Fisheries, Govt. of India

#### Working Group Chairs

**Daniel Stepputtis**

Scientist, Thünen Institute

**Antonello Sala**

Senior Fisheries Scientist

National Research Council

**Jon Lansley**

Fishery Industry Officer, FAO