

Regional Workshop on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance – Chittagong, Bangladesh, January 2008

Effective MCS (monitoring, control and surveillance) is essential for sound policies to conserve and manage fisheries resources. Some of the main constraints to MCS in the Bay of Bengal region are lack of accurate statistics concerning small-scale fisheries; lack of a scientific information system; inadequate trained manpower; lack of awareness at the community level of the need for MCS; landing centres that are remote and inaccessible; lack of supporting legislation; and inadequate funding.

These are some issues that will be discussed at a Regional Workshop on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance to be held in Chittagong, Bangladesh, from 16 to 18 January, 2008. Representatives from Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka will attend. The workshop will review existing marine fisheries management programmes in member-countries, current licensing and registration procedures, and practices and fisheries legislation. It will assess the existing capacity for MCS, identify institutional requirements necessary within the Department of Fisheries in each country, prepare and outline procedures for a fisheries MCS programme. It will discuss the preparation of training and extension materials.

National Workshop on Safety at Sea in Chittagong, Bangladesh, January 2008

A National Workshop is to be organised during 21-22 January, 2008, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in co-operation with the FAO and the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Bangladesh. The workshop will explain the objectives and activities of the SIDA-funded FAO-executed



project "Safety at Sea" in co-operation with the BOBP-IGO. It will evolve a work plan in co-operation with stakeholders, identify a fishing centre for pilot activities, and the agencies and personnel who will form a committee to facilitate project activities.

Regional Consultation on Management Plan for Hilsa fisheries – Barrackpore, India, March 2008

The hilsa is an icon of Bengali cuisine; the hilsa fishery is also an important source of food, nutrition and livelihoods in the coastal, estuarine and inland areas of Bangladesh, India and Myanmar. But the hilsa is being depleted and stocks are declining. It is believed that both natural and anthropogenic impacts are responsible. Conservation and management of the hilsa fishery is a serious and urgent issue.

A Regional Consultation on preparation of a management plan for hilsa fisheries is to be held on 14 and 15 March, 2008 at Barrackpore (Kolkata), India, in co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, and the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute, Barrackpore. Representatives from Bangladesh, India and Myanmar will attend. The Consultation will review the current status of hilsa fisheries in the Bay of Bengal region as well as socio-

economic data, set up a technical committee to prepare a comprehensive report, and outline management aspects essential for a management plan.

Regional Consultation on Preparation of Management Plans for Shark Fisheries – Beruwala, Sri Lanka, March 2008

Sharks have been a major fishery in India, Maldives and Sri Lanka for centuries. Sharks are commercially valuable; in fact every part of shark has economic utility. Forty seven species of shark occur in the seas in India, while three types of shark fishery are carried out in the Maldives – the reef shark fishery, oceanic shark fishery and the deep water gulper shark fishery. But the shark is under threat. Many species of shark are now in the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) red list.

A Regional Consultation on Preparation of Management Plans for Shark Fisheries will be organized from 24 to 26 March 2008 in Beruwala, Sri Lanka, with representatives from India, Maldives and Sri Lanka. The Consultation will review existing data on shark fisheries in the region, review socio-economic data, outline important management aspects essential for formulating a management plan, and set up a technical committee to compile, collate and prepare a comprehensive report on shark fisheries of the region.

