

# BOBP's 2007 calendar promotes the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

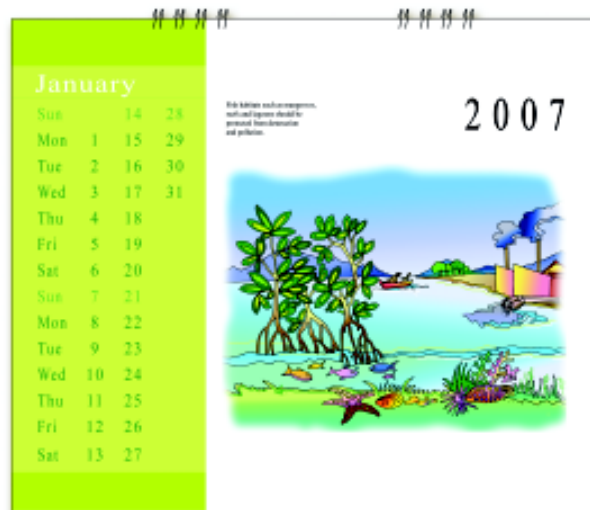
Is the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries too abstract, too philosophical, too difficult for fishers to follow? Look out for the BOBP-IGO's 2007 calendar, which gives visual shape to the Code – through simple, attractive sketches and equally catchy messages.

The Code was adopted in Rome by 170 member-countries of the FAO in 1995. It is a collection of principles, goals and action elements. It covers just about everything relating to fisheries – the capture, processing and marketing of fish stocks, their management, and aquaculture.

Everyone agrees with the Code – as they would with motherhood or patriotism. But compliance is voluntary, not mandatory. Fishers, boat owners, even governments have yet to take action or change their practices to conform to the Code.

New habits and attitudes are slow to develop. The BOBP-IGO's workshops and publications on the Code have been useful for officials. But thousands of small-scale fishers still haven't heard of the Code.

Hence the 2007 calendar. It conveys the messages of the Code through sketches, headings and simple text. Avoid



overfishing. Keep the fleet size right. Do away with destructive fishing practices. Use selective fishing gear and methods; avoid small-mesh nets and catch-everything gear. Ban dynamiting, poisoning and other destructive fishing practices. Protect and promote fish habitats. Enhance fish stocks with artificial reefs. Ensure people's participation in planning and tapping coastal resources. Cut post-harvest losses. Ensure safety at sea and the health of fishers. Collect and record data systematically – on fish landings, species, sizes... Make every harbour a haven for fishing vessels, with facilities for vessels, vendors and fish buyers. Introduce co-management. Avoid and combat pollution.

BOBP's annual theme-based desktop calendars have been in high demand – significant content, handy size, visual appeal. The 2007 calendar should be a hit too. The text is in English. We would like to consider vernacular versions – donor support would be welcome!



*Bay of Bengal News* is a quarterly publication of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO). The BOBP-IGO is a regional fisheries body, which presently covers four countries around the Bay of Bengal – Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka. The BOBP-IGO plays a catalytic and consultative role in developing coastal fisheries management in the Bay of Bengal to help improve the conditions of small-scale fisherfolk in the member-countries.

