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BOBP

Report of the Regional Inception Workshop on
**National Plan of Action
for Small Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF)**

20 - 22 November 2025
Lotus Tower, Colombo, Sri Lanka



On the Sidelines of

**WORLD
FISHERIES
DAY 2025**





Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



BOBP

REGIONAL INCEPTION WORKSHOP ***ON***

National Plans of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF)

Colombo, Sri Lanka

20-22 November 2025



BOBP

Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO)

91, Saint Mary's Road, Abiramapuram, Chennai - 600 018. INDI

About the organizers



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

FAO is a specialized UN agency founded in 1945 to combat global hunger and promote sustainable agricultural development. Headquartered in Rome, FAO works with governments and international organizations to improve food security, nutrition, and rural livelihoods. It plays a key role in fisheries and aquaculture governance, developing international agreements



Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DFAR)

The Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources manages and regulates marine fisheries in Sri Lanka. It promotes sustainable fishing, supports fishing communities, conserves marine resources, and oversees fish processing and export. The fisheries sector is important for the country's economy and food security.



Bay of Bengal Inter Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO)

The BOBP-IGO is a regional fisheries advisory body with Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka as its contracting parties. It is mandated to enhance cooperation amongst its member countries and other countries (especially, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand) for sustainable fisheries management in the Bay of Bengal region. The BOBP-IGO Secretariat is located at Chennai. The Department of Fisheries, Government of India is the nodal agency from India and the hosting agency.

Preparation of Report

This report of the “Regional Inception Workshop on National Plans of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF)” has been prepared by the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO).

The workshop will be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 20–22 November 2025, and is being organised in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Ministry of Fisheries of Sri Lanka, and partner organisations.

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of BOBP-IGO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city, or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

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Executive Summary

The Regional Inception Workshop on the National Plan of Action on Small-scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF) was organized by BOBP-IGO and FAO during 20-22 Nov 2025 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The workshop included five technical sessions apart from the inaugural and valedictory and the special programme on World Fisheries Day.

Fifty-six participants from four countries, Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka, mainly the designated members of the National Task Force of each country, supported by a three-member team from FAO and a four-member team from BOBP IGO were at the workshop. The workshop's main objectives were to (i) officially launch National Task Forces (NTFs) for the four countries and provide additional capacity building for the NTF members, (ii) advance initiation-stage activities including SSF profile validation, stakeholder mapping and consultation planning, (iii) establish national platform and plan development of NPOA-SSF. It also included celebrating World Fisheries Day on 21st November.

In the workshop sessions, the participants were walked through the NPOA-SSF development process, building on the outputs from the Chennai workshop. At the end of the workshop, key elements of the process were in place and gaps identified for further action. A roadmap and the immediate next steps were identified by each country.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

| | |
|--------|--|
| BOBLME | Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem |
| CBOs | Community-Based Organizations |
| CNRS | Center for Natural Resource Studies |
| CSOs | Civil Society Organizations |
| DFAR | Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources |
| DoF | Department of Fisheries |
| FGD | Focus Group Discussion |
| FIFO | Federation of Indian Fisher Organizations |
| FPOs | Farmer Producer Organizations |
| FSI | Fishery Survey of India |
| ICSF | International Collective in Support of Fishworkers |
| IHH | Illuminating Hidden Harvests |
| KII | Key Informant Interview |
| MoFAOR | Ministry of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources |
| MSSRF | M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation |
| NAQDA | National Aquaculture Development Authority |
| NARA | National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency |
| NFDB | National Fisheries Development Board |
| NFSF | National Federation of Small-scale Fishworkers |
| NGOs | Non-Governmental Organizations |
| NTF | National Task Force |
| RAP | Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific |
| SEAI | Seafood Exporters Association of India |
| SIFFS | South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies |
| SMEs | Small and Medium Enterprises |
| SSF | Small-Scale Fisheries |
| ToR | Terms of Reference |
| UN | United Nations |
| WFF | World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers |

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Participants at the regional inception workshop on National Plans of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF), 20-22 Nov 2025, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Inaugural session

The workshop was inaugurated by **Hon. Vijitha Herath**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment, and Tourism, Sri Lanka. **Dr B.K. Kolita Kamal Jinadasa**, Secretary, MoFAOR, Government of Sri Lanka, presented the focus of the government on SSF.

Next, **Dr P. Krishnan**, Director, BOBP IGO gave the context and background of the workshop. He said that this was a follow-up of the Regional Capacity Building Workshop held during 17–19 September 2025 in Chennai, India. The Chennai workshop brought together proposed core team members of the SSF national task force (NTF) from each of the four BOBP countries including small-scale fisheries actors, government officials, researchers, and CSOs/NGOs. Each participating country had drafted preliminary national roadmaps and made formal commitments to establish the full NTFs and initiate their NPOA-SSF development processes. During this workshop, the country NTF would be officially launched and finally, a refined roadmap including a detailed NPOA-SSF development plan would be prepared, he said.

Ms Lena Westlund, International Fisheries Analyst from FAO Headquarters in Rome spoke about the SSF Guidelines and the plan of implementation of the guidelines through the NPOA-SSF for each country.

Country representatives from Bangladesh (**Md. Hasanuzzaman**), India (**Dr R Sreenath**), Maldives (**Ms Aishath Sarah Hashim**) and Sri Lanka (**Hon Rathna Gamage**, Deputy Minister of Fisheries) spoke about the importance of SSF for their countries and their commitment to prepare and implement the NPOA-SSF.

Session 1: Recap of NPOA-SSF Development Process and Launch of National Task Forces

Mr Varun Tandon, FAO, made a presentation that served as a background and orientation for the workshop. He began by situating the process within the broader SSF Guidelines, explaining their objectives and thematic areas, and highlighting their role in supporting human rights, sustainable fisheries management, and enabling environments. This provided participants with the rationale for why national plans of action are needed and how they connect to international commitments and regional priorities under BOBP-IGO.

Next, the regional roadmap was outlined showing the phased sequence from initiation in 2025 through development in 2026 and implementation and review in the years following. He emphasized the importance of early activities such as forming National Task Forces, preparing preliminary SSF profiles, conducting stakeholder mapping, and undertaking governance and legal diagnostics. These steps were presented as the foundation for drafting and eventually launching the NPOAs, with clear milestones and timelines to guide countries through the process.

Finally, the presentation detailed the workshop agenda and activities, explaining how sessions would move from background and capacity building into practical working group discussions. In the first two sessions, participants would be tasked with looking at the NTF Terms of Reference, roles and responsibilities reviewing draft SSF profiles, applying the IHH characterization matrix, clarifying definitions, and identifying sub-sectors and key issues. They would also examine the updated legal and policy diagnostic reports to see if they were ready for release as a working version.

Next, the participants worked in country groups to review the Terms of Reference for the National Task Force (NTF) using the NPOA-SSF manual, government notification orders, and outputs from the Chennai workshop.

Key outcomes by country from this session are presented here:

Bangladesh

Roles and responsibilities of all NTF members were clearly discussed and aligned for both the initiation and development phases. Gaps in the existing TOR were examined, especially regarding coordination and follow-up responsibilities. The team confirmed a regular NTF meeting schedule to ensure continuity and accountability.

India

Marine fisheries group: Participants clarified the roles and responsibilities of NTF members during both initiation and development stages and identified the following gaps: need for clearer delegation of responsibilities between central and state DoFs, need for formal NTF notification before meetings begin and the need for inclusion of gender expertise and greater representation from coastal communities. A tentative meeting schedule was drafted, contingent upon formal NTF notification by government authorities.

Inland fisheries group: The group discussed responsibilities of NTF members during both initiation and development phases, collaboration between national and state agencies to guide the NPOA-SSF process and coordination mechanisms for ensuring continuity of activities. The group said that some roles require clearer definition, especially regarding state-level responsibilities, there was a need for structured communication channels among NTF members and that timing and scheduling of meetings need to be formalized.

Maldives

Participants reviewed the NTF Terms of Reference from the NPOA-SSF Manual, the official notification order, and the roadmap developed during the Chennai regional workshop. The roles were found to be distributed across governance review, drafting, stakeholder mapping, awareness building, and legal drafting. While most functions were covered, some gaps were noted in areas such as gender inclusion and monitoring responsibilities.

Sri Lanka

Participants found clear allocation of responsibilities among NTF members for stakeholder mapping, governance review, development planning, public launch, intervention logic, log frame, drafting, and consultations. Draft meeting schedule spanning inception, mapping, governance review, development planning, consultations, and drafting was discussed. Some gaps were noted in the documentation of overall roles for certain members, which will need to be clarified in subsequent meetings.

Session 2: Refining Country SSF Profiles and Applying IHH

The second session involved reviewing an updated legal and policy analysis prepared after the Chennai regional meeting to see if it was ready to be released as a working version for identification of opportunities and gaps and the implications of these gaps for NPOA-SSF content and prioritization.

Key outcomes by country are presented here:

Bangladesh

Marine fisheries group: With regard to the legal and policy diagnostics, the document was provisionally endorsed as a working version, pending minor refinement. Key gaps identified include: absence of a clear legal definition of SSF, limited social protection and insufficient recognition of women's roles, and weak regulatory provisions for market access, value chain development, and disaster risk management. Reviewing the country profile, some key points that emerged were that the SSF Working Definition should not rely solely on vessel capacity and must

integrate factors such as livelihood dependency, gear type, distance, and maximum 40 m depth of fishing operation. A draft list of fishery units within the Bangladeshi SSF sector was compiled. Key issues identified included resource degradation, limited access rights, gender-specific vulnerabilities, inadequate infrastructure and climate and disaster-related risks.

Inland fisheries group: Participants reviewed the Inland SSF profile, identified data gaps, and agreed on steps for finalization and regular updating. A multi-dimensional SSF definition was recommended, avoiding reliance on vessel size alone. Key issues affecting inland SSF include resource pressure, livelihood vulnerability, seasonal fluctuations, and climate shocks.

India

Marine Fisheries Group: With respect to the legal and policy profile, it was pointed out that current policies insufficiently recognize SSF as a distinct sector. There was weak alignment with human-rights based approaches: equity, transparency, participation, tenure rights. Women's roles and representation are poorly reflected and Institutional arrangements for SSF governance remain fragmented. Participants agreed the analysis can be released as a working version after minor improvements, and it will directly inform the thematic pillars of India's NPOA-SSF.

In the country profile, it was suggested to avoid unidimensional criteria such as vessel size alone and to include multiple dimensions: gear types, fishing trip duration, dependency on SSF, distance from shore, socio-economic characteristics, and vulnerability. Key issues affecting SSF ranged from resource decline and overfishing to climate change impacts and disasters and limited social protection coverage.

Inland Fisheries Group: Participants agreed that a multi-dimensional definition is required, emphasizing the need to avoid relying solely on vessel size or gear type. Instead, the definition should take into account the type of waterbody, the degree of livelihood dependency, the nature of gear practices, the levels of market linkage, and the vulnerability and socio-economic characteristics of those involved. Key issues affecting inland small-scale fisheries include seasonal fluctuations in fish availability, challenges around access rights in shared waters, and the lack of secure tenure in tanks, lakes, and wetlands. These are compounded by weak market linkages and infrastructure gaps that limit economic opportunities, as well as the impacts of disasters, flooding, and climate variability that threaten both livelihoods and ecosystems. Additionally, gender disparities in access and participation continue to constrain equitable involvement and benefits within the sector.

Maldives

The key findings from the session highlighted that tenure and access rights are more relevant to fishing access than to land tenure. Sustainable resource management was identified as another critical issue, with enforcement gaps and limitations in data systems continuing to pose challenges. In addition, social development and decent work emerged as priority areas to be addressed.

The outputs of the discussion included a discussion on the readiness of the legal analysis to serve as a working version, as well as the identification of implications for the NPOA-SSF content. These implications particularly emphasize the strengthening of enforcement mechanisms, improvement of data systems, and expansion of social protection measures to better support small-scale fishers. Gaps in data such as number of women employed in the fishery and limitations in research capacity were highlighted. Draft definitions of SSF were discussed. It was noted that tuna fisheries, though dominant nationally, are small-scale in the broader Indian Ocean context and that reef fisheries exhibit typical SSF characteristics, being fragmented, localized, and largely for domestic consumption.

Sri Lanka

The group reviewed the updated legal analysis prepared since the Chennai workshop. The group took a decision to refine the legal analysis before releasing it as a working version. They identified priority areas for NPOA-SSF content as including labour rights, safety, licensing, tenure, and climate resilience.

In the case of the SSF profile, main gaps include lack of data on women's participation in fisheries, price fluctuations and fragile market structures, limited financial literacy and access to credit, declining catch rates and IUU fishing and pollution, ghost fishing, and high fuel costs.

Actions proposed included establishment of reliable data collection systems under MoFAR and related institutions, to introduce real-time market price information systems, strengthen cooperatives and community-based organizations, promote sustainable energy sources and enhance co-management, habitat restoration, and enforcement.

The group recommended not to use a unidimensional definition of SSF, but to recognize the diversity of fisheries. They identified fishery units as gill net fishery, beach seines, diving, hand lines and long lines, purse seines, and culture-based fisheries and said that each unit faces specific challenges such as overexploitation, violation of legal limits, lack of seed supply, and high mortality rates.

Session 3: Stakeholder Mapping

A comprehensive stakeholder mapping exercise was conducted covering stakeholder types, influence levels, interests, and priority engagement groups.

Key outcomes by country are presented here:

Bangladesh

Marine fisheries group: Marine fishery stakeholder groups identified include fishers (multiple gears and boat categories), women in fisheries (processing, trading, dry fish workers), aratdars, auctioneers, depot owners, traders, suppliers, wholesalers, community leaders, local government representatives, NGOs and researchers and coast guard/navy (for safety at sea). Five geographic zones were identified for consultation and Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Alipur/Mahipur, Pathorghata, Khulna–Bagerhat being identified as SSF hotspots. The consultation design (seven workshopns @ 50 per workshop, tailored by literacy levels and with separate consultations for women) and duration (regional @ 1day, central @3 days) was worked out and the background documents for the consultation were listed. Stakeholder selection criteria shall ensure direct SSF involvement, community representation and avoiding conflict of interest.

Inland fisheries group: The country inland fisheries group's stakeholder mapping considered influence, level of impact, and interest groups. Target groups include fishers, women and marginalized groups, local authorities, traders, processors, and NGOs. Consultation design decisions included coverage of major inland SSF hotspots: riverine areas, Kaptai Lake, beels, haors, and floodplains. A total of 32 consultation meetings: 20 local, 10 regional, 2 national, plus 35 key informant interviews (KII) engaging some 735 stakeholders with separate consultations for women and marginalized groups was envisaged. There would be day-long sessions for local and national meetings and two-day sessions for regional meetings.

In both cases, budget is currently not allocated and must be arranged.

India

Marine fisheries: Stakeholder groups identified include fishers unions, cooperatives, societies, CBOs, Local governance bodies: Gram Panchayats, Block officials; State and National

Departments of Fisheries; Research bodies: CMFRI, CIFT, CIFE, FSI, Post-harvest actors: processors, exporters, traders, market functionaries, NGOs and Civil Society: SIFFS, ICSF, MSSRF; Suppliers: SEAI and Women's groups and marginalized communities. For the marine sector, six geographic units were recognized. Key items in the consultation methodology included pre-distribution of translated drafts, consultations to be conducted during monsoon/fishing ban months with each consultation requiring one month of preparation. No budget was currently allocated.

Implementation challenges in the marine sector included translating NPOA-SSF into actionable, state-level programmes, dependency on state DoF and mobilization of funding. Opportunities include positioning NPOA-SSF as a mission framework and strong civil society and fisher networks for outreach. Practical recommendations included using and prioritizing communication and capacity-building at state and community levels the NPOA as a unifying umbrella for fragmented SSF programmes.

Inland fisheries: A detailed stakeholder mapping session was carried out using power-interest matrix analysis combined with gender-sensitive categorization. This exercise identified several core stakeholder groups, including national and state agencies such as the NFDB, Irrigation, Micro Irrigation, Forest, Land and Revenue, and Environment departments. It also highlighted fisher communities and unions, suppliers, post-harvest actors, and public-sector marketing institutions as key participants. Elected representatives and civil servants were recognized alongside NGOs, INGOs, CSOs, and research institutions. In addition, resource partners, community associations, cooperatives, and farmer producer organizations (FPOs) were mapped as important actors. Examples of inland and related organizations noted during the session included the Dakshinbanga Matsyajibi Forum, the UP Machuara Shramik Union, and the Loktak Lake Fisheries Union, among others. The consultation target groups would include community-based groups, fish worker unions, and relevant government departments, alongside knowledge institutions, NGO and other vulnerable groups including women and the marginalized. There would be separate consultations for men and women and would include various geographic situations such as rivers, reservoirs and canals, backwaters and lagoons, lakes and wetlands. There would be a minimum of 35 consultations (one for each state/UT), they would be participatory and community-led. Materials in the local language must be available in advance, and budgets to be assessed and estimated, and supported by the fisheries departments, public institutions, and resource partners.

Maldives

Stakeholder mapping was undertaken across national, regional, and local levels, covering fisher groups, suppliers, processors, NGOs, research institutions, and government agencies. Local SMEs and women-led initiatives play a critical role in post-harvest activities, NGOs and research institutions are actively engaged in conservation and capacity building and influential stakeholders (ministries, donors) must be balanced with vulnerable groups (fishers, processors, women). Consultation Design included regional consultations in informal settings for fishers and processors, formal meetings with government agencies, online questionnaires for NGOs and SMEs and emphasis on regional representation and SSF hotspots.

Sri Lanka

Stakeholder mapping was carried out across national, regional, and local levels. Key stakeholders include fisher groups, cooperatives, women's societies, suppliers, processors, exporters, NGOs, universities, government agencies, elected representatives, and donors and vulnerable groups such as fisherwomen, processors, and small-scale traders. The consultation design would include separate methodologies for different groups (FGDs, KPIs, surveys, online tools) and there would be regional focus on Southern, Eastern, and Northern hotspots. The plan

was for 97 meetings across 15 coastal districts, inland fisheries, and officers, targeting around 5,000 stakeholders with one day workshops emphasising inclusivity and gender balance.

Session 4: NPOA SSF Rationale, Development Phase Planning and Communication Mechanisms

The various components including rationale and planning for the consultations, challenges to be overcome and methods of communication were discussed.

Key outcomes by country are presented here:

Bangladesh

Marine fisheries group: The marine fisheries group listed eight key challenges ranging from ecological degradation and overfishing to gender inequalities and lack of recognition to data limitation and blue economy risks to SSF. Ten strategic objectives were listed including improving livelihoods and economic resilience, modernizing SSF infrastructure and technology and ensuring SSF integration into the blue economy framework.

Inland fisheries group: The inland fisheries group's key rationale areas included the need for clearer SSF recognition in policies and laws, lack of inclusion of women and indigenous peoples, weak application of human-rights principles such as equity, rule of law, participation, and transparency and insufficient institutional support and administrative structures for SSF.

India

The workshop reaffirmed the core rationale for developing a Marine NPOA-SSF identifying drivers such as high diversity and complexity of marine fisheries and actors and the absence of a holistic national framework ensuring equity, resilience, and well-being for SSF. The expected benefits include sustainable and inclusive resource management, strengthened social protection and financial inclusion and protection of tenurial rights on land and sea.

Maldives

The roadmap was finalized with milestones including: NTF Formation within one month. Planning and Preparation include inception meeting, IHH characterization, and capacity building. Stakeholder Consultations include preparation, public launch, and engagement across regions. Drafting and Finalization would include development of log frame, intervention logic, and draft write-shop. Finally, there would be publication and launch with Dissemination at atoll and island levels, followed by implementation planning.

Sri Lanka

The rationale emphasized the incomplete national fisheries policy process and the need to address poverty alleviation, human rights, gender equality, climate change adaptation, and social security. The objectives were to ensure economic benefits and uplift socio-economic status, improve efficiency and sustainability of fisheries resources, strengthen value chains and infrastructure, generate alternative employment opportunities, empower fisheries cooperatives and rural organizations and align with international and national commitments.

Session 5 Regional Roadmap

The workshop reviewed the national roadmap of six steps.

Key outcomes by country are presented here:

Bangladesh

October 2025 – October 2026 was the planned timeline, subject to adjustment due to the national election in February 2026.

India

The next immediate steps were listed as formal NTF notification, preparation and outreach for consultations, translation of background materials and multi-sector coordination for logistics.

Maldives

Immediate Next Steps would be to relay workshop results to the Fisheries Ministry (September 2025), Ministry to confirm intent to develop and launch NPOA-SSF and beginning of comprehensive data collection on SSF actors nationwide.

Sri Lanka

Process launches and awareness building (Dec 2025 – May 2026) followed by development of Intervention logic and log frame (Jan – Nov 2026) were the first steps to be followed. Next, would come stakeholder consultations (Mar – Sep 2026) which would be followed by drafting and validation (Apr – Oct 2026) and by November 2026, finalization and launch were planned.

Closing Session

At the closing session, there was a special presentation by the participants from the parallel *National Workshop for Development of Small-scale Fisheries Plan for Resilience and Sustainability in Sri Lanka* that was held at NARA, Colombo on 21st and 22nd November. Three groups – marine fishers, lagoon fishers and inland (reservoir and river) fishers presented their perspectives.

Agenda

Provisional Agenda & Programme

Day 1: Thursday, 20 November 2025

| TIME | ACTIVITIES | RESPONSIBILITY |
|--|--|--|
| 8:30 – 9:00 | Registration | BOBP-IGO |
| 9:00 – 9:45 | Inaugural Session | |
| | Welcome remarks (5 min) | Dr. B.K. Kolita Kamal Jinadasa, <i>Secretary, MoFAOR, GoSL, Colombo</i> |
| | Context and Background (5 min) | Dr. P. Krishnan, <i>Director BOBP-IGO, Chennai</i> |
| | Opening Remarks by FAO (5 min) | Lena Westlund, <i>International Fisheries Analyst,</i> <i>FAO Headquarters, Rome</i> |
| | Country Statements on NPOA-SSF Development (15 min) | Country Representatives / Heads of Country Missions in Sri Lanka <i>(Bangladesh, India, Maldives)</i> |
| | Remarks from Government of Sri Lanka (10 min) | Hon. Vijitha Herath, <i>Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment & Tourism</i> |
| | Vote of Thanks (5 min) | Mr. Susantha Kahawate, <i>Director General, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources</i> |
| 9:45 – 10:15 | Coffee/Tea Break with group photo | |
| 10:15 -12:30 | Session 1: Recap of NPOA-SSF Development Process and Launch of National Task Forces | |
| 10:15 – 10:35 | Presentation: recap of NPOA-SSF development process and NTF role | FAO |
| 10:35 – 11:30 | Country group work: Discussion on NTF Terms of Reference, roles and responsibilities | NTF Members |
| 11:30 – 12:30 | Country group work: reviewing and validating legal and policy diagnostic | NTF Members |
| 12:30 -13:00 | Plenary sharing and discussion | Country Representatives |
| 13:00 - 14:00 | <i>Lunch Break</i> | |
| 14:00 - 16:30 | Session 2: Refining Country SSF Profiles and Applying IHH | |
| 14:00 – 14:15 | Presentation: Recap of IHH characterization approach | FAO |
| 14:15 – 16:00 <i>(including coffee/tea break)</i> | 1. Country group work: Discussion on applying IHH approach - characterization and discuss draft Working SSF definition 2. Country group work: reviewing and updating SSF profiles | NTF Members |
| 16:00 - 16:30 | Plenary sharing and discussion | Country Representatives |
| 16:30 - 18:00 | Session 3: Stakeholder Mapping | |
| 16:30 – 16:45 | Presentation: recap of stakeholder mapping, | FAO |

| TIME | ACTIVITIES | RESPONSIBILITY |
|----------------------|--|-----------------|
| | consultation planning including practical consultation approaches used in other countries | |
| 16:45 - 17:50 | Country group work: refine and finalize stakeholder mapping and analysis for the NPOA-SSF process. Review practical consultation approaches used in other countries and discuss consultation approaches for their NPOA-SSF | NTF Members |
| 17:50 - 18:00 | Day 1 Wrap up | BOBP-IGO |

Day 2: Friday, 21 November 2025

| 9.00 11:30 | World Fisheries Day Celebration Agenda | |
|-------------|---|---|
| 9.00 -10.10 | Tour to Aqua Planet Expo | |
| 10.10-10.15 | Welcome Remarks Felicitations | Dr. B.K. Kolita Kamal Jinadasa, <i>Secretary, MoFAOR, GoSL, Colombo</i> |
| 10:40-10.45 | Remarks by the Deputy Minister of Fisheries of Sri Lanka | Hon. Rathna Gamage <i>Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources</i> |
| 10:45-10.50 | Remarks by the Minister of Fisheries of Sri Lanka | Hon. Ramalingam Chandrasekar <i>Minister of Fisheries Aquatic and Ocean Resources</i> |
| 10:50-11.00 | Address by the Chief Guest | Hon. Dr. Harini Amarasooriya <i>Prime Minister of Sri Lanka</i> |
| 10.15-10.20 | Opening remarks from FAO | Mr. Vimlendra Sharan, <i>FAO Representative for Sri Lanka</i> |
| 10.25-10.30 | Message from FAO Headquarters (recorded) | Dr. Manuel Barrange, <i>Assistant Director General, FAO and Director (Fisheries), FAO</i> |
| 10:30-10:35 | Overview of SSF guidelines, National plans of action | Ms. Lena Westlund, <i>International Fisheries Analyst, FAO Headquarters, Rome</i> |
| 10:35-10:38 | Regional NPOA-SSF Roadmap | Dr. P Krishnan, <i>Director BOBP-IGO</i> |
| 11:00-11.05 | Vote of Thanks | Additional Secretary <i>Ministry of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources</i> |
| 11.05-11:30 | Participants return to the Workshop Venue | |
| 11:30-12:30 | Plenary sharing and discussion on Stakeholder consultation approaches | Country Representatives |
| 12:30-13:30 | Lunch Break at Banquet Hall / Workshop Venue | |

| TIME | ACTIVITIES | RESPONSIBILITY |
|--------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 13:30-18:00 | Session 4: Stakeholder consultation planning | |
| 13:30-13:45 | Introduction to Session 5 and presentation on NPOA-SSF development planning | FAO |
| 13:45-14:30 | Country group work: Updating the NPOA-SSF problem statement and objectives (linking profiles, diagnostics, stakeholder realities) | NTF Members |
| 14:30-15:45 | Country group work: discussion on draft roadmaps: any refinements required in aligning activities, roles, timelines Country group work: NPOA-SSF development plan planning and discussion on risks, support required. Outputs: NPOA-SSF Rationale and NPOA-SSF development plan | NTF Members |
| 15:45-16:00 | Coffee break | |
| 16:00-16:45 | Country group work: communication flows and accountability mechanisms. Output: Agreed communication/coordination mechanism for each NTF | NTF Members |
| 16:45-17:30 | Plenary sharing | NTF Members |
| 17:30-18:00 | Day 2 Wrap-up | Country Representatives |

Day 3 (Saturday, 22 November 2025)

| | | |
|--------------------|---|---|
| 09:30-12:30 | Session 5: Refine Rationale | Chair: FAO |
| 09:30-10:00 | BOBP-IGO presents draft consolidated regional roadmap | Dr. P. Krishnan <i>Director BOBP-IGO, Chennai</i> |
| 10:00-11:00 | Country feedback and agreement on regional coordination framework | NTF Members |
| 11:00-11:30 | Coffee/Tea Break | |
| 11:30-12:00 | Plenary Presentation & Adoption of Regional roadmap | BOBP-IGO & NTF Members |
| 12:00-12:30 | Closing Remarks | FAO & DoF |
| 12:30-13:00 | Presentation of National Workshop outcome | SSF Representatives |
| 13:00-14:00 | Lunch Break & Close of the Meeting | |
| 14:00-17:30 | Aqua Planet Expo Visit | |

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