

DRAFT



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

Developing and implementing a  
National Plan of Action for  
Small-Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF)

# BANGLADESH (Marine Fisheries)

INCEPTION PHASE



Bay of Bengal Programme  
Inter-Governmental Organization (BOBP-IGO)  
2026



# Developing and implementing a National Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF)

## BANGLADESH MARINE FISHERIES INITIATION



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## Stage 1 - NPOA-SSF initiation

### Step 1-1: Task Force Formation

#### Preamble

The Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines)<sup>1</sup> are an international instrument focusing on the needs of developing countries. However, they are applicable globally and to all types of small-scale fisheries and the whole small-scale fisheries value chain. They provide a comprehensive framework for guiding the governance and development of small-scale fisheries, but are by definition broad and not action-specific at the national or local level: they provide recommendations on what needs to be done, but not how.

The SSF Guidelines themselves, in Chapter 13, refer to the need to support implementation and monitoring. Thus, to facilitate their implementation, country-tailored implementation plans are needed that identify the strategies and priority actions to be taken at the country level. Such a comprehensive implementation plan can be drawn up in the format of a National Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF).

#### 1. Role and purpose

The Task Force is a small group of persons dedicated to the inclusive, equitable and sustainable development of small-scale **MARINE** fisheries in **BANGLADESH**. This document provides the terms of reference (ToR) for the working arrangements of this Task Force, which will guide and facilitate the development and implementation of an NPOA-SSF in **BANGLADESH**.

#### 2. Term

These ToR are effective from **9.12.2025** and continue until the **<EXPECTED DATE THAT STAGE 1 WILL BE COMPLETED, I.E. THE NATIONAL PLATFORM IS ESTABLISHED AND THERE IS FINAL AGREEMENT TO PREPARE AN NPOA-SSF>** / will be ongoing until terminated by agreement between the parties.

#### 3. Membership

**Table 1: Members of Task Force<sup>1</sup>**

Serial No	Members of the Committee	Position in the Committee
1	Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock	Chairman
2	Additional Secretary (Blue Economy), Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock	Member
3	Chairman (Additional Secretary), Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation	Member

<sup>1</sup> Circular no. 33.00.0000.000.129.06.0015.25.369 dated 9.12.25 on “Formation of National Task Force and two separate Working Groups for Marine and Inland Open Waters for the development of the National Plan of Action on Small-Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF).” Marine Fisheries-2 Section, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh

Serial No	Members of the Committee	Position in the Committee
4	Representative, Member, Agriculture, Water Resources & Rural Institutions Division, Bangladesh Planning Commission (Not below the rank of Joint Secretary)	Member
5	Representative, Ministry of Agriculture (Not below the rank of Joint Secretary)	Member
6	Representative, Ministry of Industries (Not below the rank of Joint Secretary)	Member
7	Representative, Ministry of Water Resources (Not below the rank of Joint Secretary)	Member
8	Representative, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Not below the rank of Joint Secretary)	Member
9	Representative, Ministry of Land (Not below the rank of Joint Secretary)	Member
10	Representative, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (Not below the rank of Joint Secretary)	Member
11	Representative, Ministry of Home Affairs (Not below the rank of Joint Secretary)	Member
12	Representative, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs (Not below the rank of Joint Secretary)	Member
13	Joint Secretary (Blue Economy), Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock	Member
14	Joint Secretary (Fisheries), Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock	Member
15	Representative, Inspector General, Bangladesh Police (Not below the rank of DIG)	Member
16	Representative, Director General, Bangladesh Coast Guard (Not below the rank of Captain)	Member
17	Representative, Bangladesh River Police (Not below the rank of DIG)	Member
18	Director General, Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute	Member
19	Additional Director General, Department of Fisheries, Matshya Bhaban, Dhaka	Member
20	Director (Marine), Marine Fisheries Office, Department of Fisheries, Chattogram	Member
21	Director (Inland), Department of Fisheries, Matshya Bhaban, Dhaka	Member
22	Director (Blue Economy), Department of Fisheries, Matshya Bhaban, Dhaka	Member
23	Principal Scientific Officer (Fisheries Planning & Survey), Department of Fisheries, Matshya Bhaban, Dhaka	Member
24	Director (Budget & Finance), Department of Fisheries, Matshya Bhaban, Dhaka	Member
25	Representative, FAO Representative in Bangladesh	Member
26	WorldFish Centre, Bangladesh	Member

Serial No	Members of the Committee	Position in the Committee
27	President/ General Secretary, Bangladesh National Fishermen's Cooperative Society Ltd./National Fishermen's Society/Bangladesh Khudro Mossojibi Jele Samity/ Bangladesh Fishermen Federation/ Ethnic Fishers and Ultra Poor Development Society/Women fisher's representative	Member
28	Director General, Department of Fisheries, Matshya Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka	Member-Secretary

#### 4. Roles and Responsibilities

##### Scope of work:

- Approval of NPOA-SSF (s), which shall be developed by working groups (marine & inland capture), initiative for implementation, and if necessary, take programme;
- Support and advice to the working groups for the development of NPOA-SSF;
- If necessary, can co-opt a representative of any department/organization as a member

**The roles and responsibilities of the Task Force members are as follows:**

**Table 2: Overall role for NPOA-SSF for NTF members<sup>2</sup>**

Name of NTF member	Overall role for NPOA-SSF
1. Joint Secretary, Blue Economy, MoFL	Convener
2. Assistant Planning officer, Bangladesh Fisheries Development corporation	Member
3. Deputy Director (Blue Economy), Department of Fisheries, Bangladesh	Member
4. Chief Principal Scientist, Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute	Member
5. Chairman/Dean, Faculty of Fisheries, Patuakhali Science and Technology	Member
6. Representative, UBNIG	Member
7. Representative, Women fishermen association	Member
8. President/Secretary, Bangladesh National Fishermen Cooperative Society Ltd	Member
9. President/Secretary, Bangladesh Small scale Fisherman Association	Member
10. President/Secretary, Bangladesh National Fishermen Cooperative Society Ltd	Member
11. Cox's Bazar Boat Owner Associations	Member

<sup>2</sup> Based on presentation made at the Regional Inception Workshop on the National Plans of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF) 20-22 Nov 2025, Colombo, Sri Lanka (Marine group).

Name of NTF member	Overall role for NPOA-SSF
12. Bagerhut Boat Owner Associations	Member
13. Deep sea Set Bagnet owner Association	Member
14, 15 Fish Landing Center boat owner/Labour association Alipur, Patherghata	Member
Senior Assistant Director, Marine-Department of Fisheries	Member Secretary

**Table 3: Overall role in NPOA-SSF for institutions<sup>3</sup>**

Name of NTF member	Overall role for NPOA-SSF
MoFL	Approval
DoF	Secretarial support for preparation
BFDC, BFRI, Universities, NGO	Technical support, Research and data collection, dissemination
Small Scale Fishermen Association	Implementation,

**Table 4: Contributions and Coordination**

Reference activity from roadmap	Who leads or coordinates	Who contributes
<b>Stakeholder mapping and communication strategy plan</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Joint Secretary, Blue Economy, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Bangladesh</li> <li>2. Senior Assistant Director, Chattogram, Department of Fisheries</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assistant Planning officer, Bangladesh Fisheries Development corporation</li> <li>2. Deputy Director (Blue Economy), Department of Fisheries, Bangladesh</li> <li>3. Chief Principal Scientist, Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute</li> <li>4. Chairman/Dean, Faculty of Fisheries, Patuakhali Science and Technology</li> <li>5. Representative, UBNIG</li> <li>6. Representative, Women fishermen association</li> <li>7. President/Secretary, Bangladesh National Fishermen Cooperative Society Ltd</li> </ol>

<sup>3</sup> ibid

Reference activity from roadmap	Who leads or coordinates	Who contributes
		8. President/Secretary, Bangladesh Small scale Fisherman Association 9. President/Secretary, Bangladesh National Fishermen Cooperative Society Ltd 10. Cox's Bazar Boat Owner Associations 11. Bagerhat Boat Owner Associations 12. Deep sea Set Bagnet owner Association 13. Fish Landing Center boat owner/Labour association Alipur 14. Fish Landing Center boat owner/Labour association, Patherghata 15. Senior Assistant Director, Marine-DoF
<b>Governance review, Rationale for NPOA-SSF</b>	-Do-	-Do-
<b>NPOA-SSF development plan</b>	MoFL, Secretarial support by DoF	BFDC, BFRI, Universities, Fishermen association, NGOs
<b>Preparation for public launch of NPOA-SSF process</b>	MoFL, DoF	BFDC, BFRI, Universities, Fishermen association, NGOs
<b>Public launch: Awareness building and understanding expectations of target stakeholders</b>	MoFL, DoF, BFDC	Fishermen association, NGOs
<b>Governance review, Rationale for NPOA-SSF</b>	-Do-	-Do-
<b>NPOA-SSF development plan</b>	MoFL, Secretarial support by DoF	BFDC, BFRI, Universities, Fishermen association, NGOs
<b>Preparation for public launch of NPOA-SSF process</b>	MoFL, DoF	BFDC, BFRI, Universities, Fishermen association, NGOs
<b>Public launch: Awareness building and understanding expectations of target stakeholders</b>	MoFL, DoF, BFDC	Fishermen association, NGO,s
<b>Intervention logic</b>	MoFL, Secretarial support by DoF	BFDC, BFRI, Universities, Fishermen association, NGO,s
<b>Preparation (question, materials) for consultations</b>	MoFL, Secretarial support by DoF	BFRI, Universities,

Reference activity from roadmap	Who leads or coordinates	Who contributes
NPOA-SSF Log frame	MoFL, Secretarial support by DoF	
NPOA-SSF drafting	MoFL, Secretarial support by DoF	BFDC, BFRI, Universities, Fishermen association, NGO,s

## 5. Meetings

All meetings will be chaired by <INSERT NAME AND ORGANIZATION>

A meeting quorum will be <INSERT NUMBER> members of the Task Force.

Decisions will be made by consensus (that is, members must be satisfied with the decision even though it may not be their first choice). If this is not possible, the Task Force chairperson makes the final decision.

**Table 5: Meeting Schedules**

Meeting name	Objective	Who participates	Frequency/date	Roles
Inception meeting	Clarifying roles, scope, planning	All NTF members	Single meeting/20-22 Nov	Convener: Note-taker:
NPOA SSF working group meeting	Approval for NPOA-SSF	yes	30 Nov, 2025 3 months interval	Joint Secretary, Blue Economy, MoFL, BD Senior Assistant Director, DoF, BD

Meetings will be held <HOW OFTEN> for <SPECIFY TIME> at <SPECIFY LOCATION>.

If required, subgroup meetings will be arranged outside of these times, at a time convenient to subgroup members.

## 6. Amendment, modification or variation

These ToR may be amended, varied or modified in writing by Task Force members after consultation and agreement.

## 7. Working Group: Marine

**Table 6: Members of Working group for Marine Fisheries**

Serial No	Members of the Committee	Position in the Committee
1	Joint Secretary (Blue Economy), Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock	Chairman
2	Representative, Chairman, Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation	Member
3	Deputy Director (Blue Economy), Department of Fisheries, Matshya Bhaban, Dhaka	Member
4	Chief Scientific Officer, Marine Station, Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute, Cox's Bazar	Member
5	Prof. Dr. Md. Sazedul Hoque, Faculty of Fisheries, Patuakhali Science and Technology University, Patuakhali	Member
6	Representative, UBINIG, Dhaka (NGO)	Member
7	Representative, women fishers/ women fishers' association	Member
8	President/General Secretary, Bangladesh National Fishermen's Cooperative Society Ltd.	Member
9	President/General Secretary, Bangladesh Khudro Mossojibi Jele Samity	Member
10	President/General Secretary, Cox's Bazar District Fishing Boat Owners Association, Cox's Bazar	Member
11	President/General Secretary, Bagerhat District Fishing Boat Owners Association, Bagerhat	Member
12	President/General Secretary, Deep Sea Set Bag Net Boat Owners Association, Chattogram	Member
13	President/General Secretary, Fish Landing Centre, Alipur, Patuakhali	Member
14	President/General Secretary, Fishing Boat Labour's Union, Pathorghata, Barguna	Member
15	Senior Assistant Director, Marine Fisheries Office, Department of Fisheries, Chattogram	Member

### Scope of Work:

- a) Finalize the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Working Group;
- b) Finish the task according to the NPOA-SSF Roadmap and submission of the draft NPOA-SSF to the National committee;
- c) Submit an achievement report quarterly to the National committee;
- d) If necessary, can co-opt a representative of any department/organization as a member.

## Step 1-2: SSF Profile

This SSF profile informs the initiation of an NPOA-SSF. It is expected that this will be reviewed and further developed as part of the NPOA-SSF development. The detailed SSF Profile for Bangladesh is available as a standalone document. Information presented below is extracted/summarized from the document.

### 1. Definition of small-scale fisheries in BANGLADESH

#### Draft SSF working definition for NPOA-SSF process<sup>4</sup>

Artisanal fisheries having a carrying capacity of net ≤5 (five) tons or below shall be considered as Small-Scale Fisheries Marine (SSF-M), are characterized by-

- a) Traditional fishing practices, typically involving individual or small groups
- b) Using relatively small amounts of capital and energy,
- c) Fishing up to 40m depth of the sea
- d) Primarily for local consumption and commercial use

**Table 7: Fishery units identified in the SSF sector**

S. No.	Fishery unit	Main Characteristics	Key issues/challenges facing fishery unit
1.	Hilsa fishery	Seine net, gill net for hilsa fishing upto 40 m depth of operation	Mesh size regulation
2.	Set Bag Net fishery	Set net for Small shrimp, fin fish Mesh size of net (code end mesh)	ESBN already banned
3.	Trawl net fishery		Illegal fishing by SSF
4	Marine gill net fishery	Drift gill net for hilsa, mackerel, (0-40 m depth)	More than 2.5km (2500m) length
5	Seine net fishery	Seine net for juvenile fish, achovies	
6	Hook and long lining/handline fishery	Hook and lines for small day trip fishing	

<sup>4</sup> Definition and table based on presentation made at the Regional Inception Workshop on the National Plans of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF) 20-22 Nov 2025, Colombo, Sri Lanka

## 2. Small-scale fisheries in Bangladesh

A detailed report on the small-scale fisheries in Bangladesh is available as a stand-alone document from which the following summaries are given.

**Table 8: Characteristics of small-scale fisheries in Bangladesh**

Small-scale fisheries in numbers		A small-scale fishery is defined as...
National population (number) 17.15 crores	Employed in small-scale fisheries (percent of national population)	
	Fishers	Total
	1829932	1.01%
	Male (%)	Female (%)
	ND	ND
Inland water area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Marine area/exclusive economic zone (km <sup>2</sup> )	
47076.2	118813	
Average production (MT)	Contribution to agricultural output (percent)	
Annual fish production 5.01 million MT in 2023-24	Agricultural GDP (BBS 2024)	National GDP(BER 2024) 2.53%
	22.26%	
Total Inland -4.39 million MT, and Marine-0.63 million MT (2023-24)	Export Earnings (EPB 2024) 0.91%	
	Animal protein supplies 60%	
	Number of fishers (marine and coastal) 0.516 Million	
	Employment (full-time & part-time) 19.50 million	
	Women's employment (fish processing industry) 1.40 million	
Key small-scale fisheries	Name of species and fisheries (with annual production totals, to give an idea of relative scale)	
	Hilsa (Inland-248569 + Marine- 280918 MT);	
	Indian Major Carp (1136095 MT); Catfish (418629 MT); Tilapia (439678 MT); Sardine (23703 MT); Bombay duck (78221 MT), Sea catfish (17999 MT), Jew fish (60686 MT), Pomfret (11476 MT);	
	Other (Marine- 111791, Inland- 695414 MT)	
	All are not mentioned here	

Note: km<sup>2</sup> = square kilometre; MT = metric ton

<sup>5</sup> ibid

### 3. Small-scale fisheries structure

Fisher groups include gillnet fishers, set bag net fishers, cast net fishers, seine net fishers, trap fishers.

Supply chain actors: Fish workers (including post-harvest workers), traders (middlemen and marketers), processors (drying, smoking, packaging), input suppliers (gear, nets, ice, fuel), boat builders and repairers, transport service providers, government agencies (Department of Fisheries, local authorities), financial institutions (microcredit providers), aquaculture farmers, aquaculture-private sector facilitators (around 500 in 2016) research and extension services.

In Bangladesh, small-scale fishers, fish workers, and traders usually belong to separate organizations tailored to their roles, such as the Bangladesh Small-Scale Fishermen's Cooperative Society, Bangladesh Fish Workers Forum, and Fish Traders' Association. Women in processing are often organized through NGO-supported groups.

Fisherwomen in Bangladesh are involved mostly in post-harvest processing including processing, drying, smoking and some are engaged in selling. Fisher women are members in different groups- like cooperatives, self-help groups by NGOs.

### 4. Small-scale fisheries management

A number of policies and laws are in place including:

- National Fisheries Policy, 1998
- Marine Fisheries Act, 2020
- Marine Fisheries Harvest Policy, 2023 (Bengali)
- Marine Fisheries Rules, 2023 (Bengali) (rules and sub-rules of 16)
- Hilsa Fisheries Management Action Plan, 2003
- Bangladesh Marine Fisheries Management Plan: Part-2 Artisanal, 2023
- Protection and Conservation of Fish Act, 1950

Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL), under the Government of Bangladesh (GoB), Department of Fisheries (DoF) is the key institution.

### 5. Small-scale fisheries knowledge

Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI), and universities like Bangladesh Agricultural University, Sher-e Bangla Agricultural University, etc.

Catch data for inland open waters and catch & effort data for artisanal vessels in marine waters are available and published annually in the Yearbook of Fisheries Statistics of Bangladesh by the Department of Fisheries.

## 6. Issues and Opportunities

**Table 9: Key issues in the small-scale fisheries subsector to be filled based on stakeholder discussions**

Small-scale fisheries dimension	Stakeholders to ask	Key issues* (Suggestions for targeting stakeholders and prompting information concerning the main issues.)	Issues	Opportunities
5. Governance of tenure in small-scale fisheries and resource management a. Responsible governance of tenure	Local leaders' Local government Regional government National government	Are small-scale fisheries adequately recognized in government policy? Do small-scale fishers have secure tenure? Are there conflicts between larger-scale operators, or other parties, and small-scale fisheries' fishers? Are small-scale fisheries involved in fisheries management decision-making?		
5b. Sustainable resource management	Fishers Researchers, scientists Resource managers	What is the status (e.g. stable, overfished, unknown) and ecological significance of small-scale fisheries resources? Are other human activities affecting these resources or		

Small-scale fisheries dimension	Stakeholders to ask	Key issues* (Suggestions for targeting stakeholders and prompting information concerning the main issues.)	Issues	Opportunities
		ecosystems? Examples are coastal development, pollution or mangrove cutting.		
6. Social development, employment and decent work	Fisher groups (per fishery) Small-scale fisheries community groups, leaders, elders	Are there conflicts between groups across fisheries sectors (small-scale versus industrial; inland versus marine)? Across different sectors (small-scale fisheries versus agricultural sector, etc.)? Do small-scale fisheries communities have access to public services such as education, healthcare and public safety?		
7. Value chains, post-harvest and trade	Supply chain groups: Upstream – suppliers (net and boat builders) Downstream – buyers, processors, traders, retailers	Are supply chain operators included in discussions and small-scale fisheries decision-making? How do wage levels compare and how secure are jobs and		

Small-scale fisheries dimension	Stakeholders to ask	Key issues* (Suggestions for targeting stakeholders and prompting information concerning the main issues.)	Issues	Opportunities
		<p>income? Are there alternative incomes in small-scale fisheries communities (community-based tourism, etc.)? How is the small-scale fisheries subsector affected by competition with larger economic sectors (industrial-scale fisheries, shipping, etc.)?</p>		
8. Gender equality	Small-scale fisheries community groups, leaders, elders	<p>Do opportunities in small-scale fisheries differ for men and women? Does access to public services differ for men and women?</p>		
9. Disaster risks and climate change	Resource managers, scientists Fisher groups (per fishery) Small-scale fisheries community groups, leaders, elders	<p>How is climate change affecting resources and small-scale fisheries communities? How are communities adapting to climate change, and to what extent are they able to adapt?</p>		

## 7. SSF profile gaps and plans for updating or consideration for NPOA-SSF content

Table 10: SSF Profile gaps<sup>6</sup>

S.No.	Main gaps in SSF profile	Action required to update or implication for NPOA-SSF content and activities	Responsibility (if action)	Timeline (if action)
1.	<p><b>No official definition of “marine small-scale fisher.”</b></p> <p>Definition based only on <i>vessel capacity</i>, not on depth of fishing operation, livelihood, gear, distance, or dependency.</p>	in case of marine, definition need to included that fishing operation not beyond 40m depth’	MoFL, DoF	As per plan
2	No stock assessment, no CPUE trends, no habitat condition	Stock and CPUF assessment need	MoFL, DoF	As per plan
3	No analysis of bycatch, destructive gear, over capacity, Not covered Plastic pollution, Ghost fishing issue	By catch assessment needed and address ghost fishing and plastic pollution	MoFL, DoF	As per plan
4	No income/poverty data; no gender data; no vulnerability mapping	Income, gender and vulnerability mapping need to done	MoFL, DoF	As per plan
5	<p>No beach landing infrastructure analysis; no price chain data</p> <p>No rights/tenure assessment; no enforcement gap analysis</p>	Landing infrastructure, price chain data, and enforcement gap analysis needed	MoFL, DoF	As per plan

<sup>6</sup> Based on presentation made at the Regional Inception Workshop on the National Plans of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF) 20-22 Nov 2025, Colombo, Sri Lanka

S.No.	Main gaps in SSF profile	Action required to update or implication for NPOA-SSF content and activities	Responsibility (if action)	Timeline (if action)
6	No evaluation of seasonal bans, VGF, IUU control  Missing marine safety, rescue, insurance, occupational hazards	Seasonal ban, IUU, safety, insurance, and OHS need to be included	MoFL, DoF	As per plan
7	Completely missing vulnerability & adaptation analysis	Vulnerability and adaptation strategy needed		
8	section 1-3, mainly focuses freshwater structure, but SSF MARINE in mind we need to focus its characteristics focus on marine artisanal, fishers, skipper, boat owners, landing center, marine pollution, conservation, occupational safety and health, climate changes, and livelihood.	SSF profile characteristics need to be focused on marine artisanal, fishers, skipper, boat owners, landing center, marine pollution, conservation, occupational safety and health, climate changes, and livelihood.		

## Step 1-3: SSF Stakeholder Mapping

### 1. Stakeholder Types

**Table 11: Small-scale fisheries stakeholders<sup>7</sup>**

Stakeholder types	National	Regional	Local
Small-scale seafood value chain			
Fisher groups (covering specific areas or fisheries)	National Fishermen Association, small scale fishery association		Gill net fishery, Hook & line fisheries, set bag net fishery and others, , Boat owners association
Suppliers to small-scale fisheries (port, boat, net and fuel suppliers)	Fuel Supplier Association, transport association		Boat Makers Association, Fuel Supplier Association, Ice supplier association
Post-harvest (buyers, processors, traders and retailer)	Bangladesh Frozen Food Exporter Association		Trader and retailer association
Public-sector organizations			
Elected representatives (ministers, councillors and community leaders)	Minister,		Chairman & Member of Union Parishad, Community leaders, Councillor
Civil servants (from fisheries and non-fisheries departments)	MoFL, DoF, BFDC, MoFCC, MoHA		DoF
Third-sector groups			
Research (fishery, social and economic)	BFRI, BORI, Universities, BIMRAD	WorldFish, BOBP-IGO	
Non-governmental organizations (environmental and social)	BRAC, UBINIG, COAST, CNRS, PKSF	IUCN, WCS	
Resource partners (donors and agencies)		FAO, BOBP-IGO, World Bank, ADB, JICA	
Community associations			Boat Owner Association, Boat Makers Association, Landing Centre Fish Workers Association

<sup>7</sup> The Table from the Colombo presentation has Sri Lanka stakeholders – hence the table created in the Chennai workshop is used here Based on presentation made at the Regional Capacity Development Workshop on Development of National Plan of Action for Small Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF) 17-19 September 2025, Chennai, India

## 2. Stakeholder influence<sup>8</sup>

**Table 12: Stakeholder influence**

Affected by decisions ↑	Fisher group			
	Post-harvest	Suppliers to small-scale fisheries		
		Community associations	Research	Resource partners
		Non-governmental organizations	Civil servants	Elected representatives
		Influential power →		

## 3. Stakeholder connections

**Table 13: List of stakeholders by type of connection with each other<sup>9</sup>**

	Governance	Fishers	Post-harvest	Suppliers	Research	Non-governmental organizations
Governance	Strong	Weak	Weak	Medium	Strong	Medium
Fishers	Weak	Medium	Strong	Strong	Medium	Strong
Post-harvest	Weak	Strong	Strong	Strong	Medium	Medium
Suppliers	Medium	Strong	Strong	Strong	Medium	Medium
Research	Strong	Medium	Medium	Medium	Strong	Strong

<sup>8</sup> The Table from the Colombo presentation has Sri Lanka stakeholders – hence the table created in the Chennai workshop is used here Based on presentation made at the Regional Capacity Development Workshop on Development of National Plan of Action for Small Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF) 17-19 September 2025, Chennai, India

<sup>9</sup> ibid

<b>Non-governmental organizations</b>	Medium	Strong	Medium	Medium	Strong	Strong
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#### 4. Stakeholder Interests

**Table 14: Stakeholders' interests<sup>10</sup>**

Stakeholders	Stakeholders' interests	How much they know about the SSF Guidelines/NPOA-SSF
Fisher groups	Livelihood	Weak
Suppliers to small-scale fisheries	Business	Weak
Post-harvest	Business	Weak
Elected representatives	Political Commitment	Weak
Civil servants	Governance	Weak
Research	Sustainable Development	Medium
Non-governmental organizations	Capacity building and livelihood support	Weak
Resource partners	Motivation and Commitment	Weak

<sup>10</sup> Based on presentation made at the Regional Inception Workshop on the National Plans of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF) 20-22 Nov 2025, Colombo, Sri Lanka

## Step 1-4: SSF Governance Review and Gap Analysis

The Governance Review and Gap Analysis was based on the SSF Policy and Legal Diagnostic Toolbox developed by FAO, which provides three different tools for assessing the implementation of the SSF Guidelines through national legal and policy frameworks:

- tool 1 for identifying the status of a country in relation to global and regional legally binding instruments relevant to small-scale fisheries;
- tool 2 for identifying national policy and legal instruments relevant to small-scale fisheries, and the extent to which these instruments address key questions in accordance with the SSF Guidelines; and
- tool 3 for collecting information and views from small-scale fishers and their communities on the implementation of national laws and policies.

The detailed report of the Legal and Policy review for Bangladesh is available as a standalone report.

The following is the status and key gaps as derived from the report.

### 1. Status and Key Gaps

#### 1. Tool 1: International Legal Instruments

- **Environment/ Biodiversity:** Bangladesh has ratified 9 of 11 instruments in the list, not having ratified only the 1946 International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling and Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks
- **Human Rights:** Bangladesh has ratified all the nine Human Rights instruments in the list
- **Trade:** Bangladesh has ratified CITES but is not yet a party to the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies
- **Labour (ILO):** ILO has listed eleven fundamental instruments of which India has ratified all eleven (the 2006 Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention (C187) will enter into force on 20 Nov 2026); and of the four governance (priority) instruments, we chose three as being relevant to fisheries and note that Bangladesh is party to two of three, not being a party to Employment Policy Convention, 1964 (No. 122) . In addition, seven instruments that were considered relevant to fisheries were also included of which Bangladesh has ratified three. The country has not ratified the Work in Fishing Conventions (C188), 1949 ILO Migration for Employment Convention (Revised) (C097), Protection of Wages Convention, 1949 (No. 95) and Minimum Wage Fixing Convention, 1970 (No. 131).
- Regional cooperation is evident through membership in APFIC, BOBP-IGO, INFOFISH, and NACA, supporting fisheries management, trade, and aquaculture development.

## 2. Tool 2: National Legal Instruments

**Table 15: Summary of Application of Tool 2**

	<b>Assessment Area</b>	<b>Key Findings</b>	<b>Level of Alignment</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Policy and legal framework reviewed</b>	28 policies, 9 primary legislations, and 5 secondary legislations related to fisheries were assessed	—
<b>2</b>	<b>Definition of small-scale fisheries</b>	Weak and inconsistent definitions; women, value-chain actors, and Indigenous Peoples not explicitly recognised	0% fully addressed; 40% partially addressed; 60% not addressed
<b>3</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	Food security and resource sustainability addressed; no explicit reference to women or Indigenous Peoples	60% fully addressed; 40% not addressed
<b>4</b>	<b>Principles</b>	Absence of comprehensive SSF principles; limited rights-based approaches confined to marine fisheries policy	0% fully addressed; predominantly not addressed
<b>5</b>	<b>Institutional and administrative arrangements</b>	Regulatory authority concentrated in the Department of Fisheries; lack of representation of small-scale fishers, women, and Indigenous Peoples	25% addressed; 75% not addressed
<b>6</b>	<b>Tenure and access rights</b>	Partial recognition of tenure; no customary rights or preferential access for small-scale fisheries; limited registration of women and Indigenous Peoples	38% addressed; 62% not addressed
<b>7</b>	<b>Sustainable resource management</b>	Conservation measures exist; gaps in co-management, traditional knowledge integration, and marine spatial planning	26% addressed; 15% partially addressed; 59% not addressed
<b>8</b>	<b>Social development and decent work</b>	Limited labour protections; absence of social security, credit, insurance, migrant worker safeguards, and protections for women and children	23% addressed; 10% partially addressed; 67% not addressed
<b>9</b>	<b>Value chain and trade</b>	No targeted provisions supporting small-scale fisheries in market access or trade policy	0% addressed
<b>10</b>	<b>Gender equality</b>	Gender equity referenced in policy; absence of leadership roles, maternity protection, and violence-prevention mechanisms	50% addressed; 50% not addressed
<b>11</b>	<b>Disaster risk and climate change</b>	Climate resilience integrated in policy; limited SSF-specific adaptation measures and insurance coverage	60% addressed; 40% partially addressed
<b>12</b>	<b>Justice, enforcement, and accountability</b>	Legal aid provisions exist; lack of alternative dispute resolution; uniform penalties applied to small- and large-scale fishers	40% addressed; 40% partially addressed; 20% not addressed

### 3. Community Response

- i. **Recognition of Small-Scale Fishers:** Small-scale fishers recognize themselves as small-scale (100%), but there is uncertainty about legal recognition (80%).
- ii. **Institutional and Administrative Arrangement:** The Department of Fisheries (DoF) is seen as responsible, but its efforts are limited by resources. There's low representation of women (67%) and Indigenous Peoples (80%) in decision-making.
- iii. **Tenure and Access Rights:** Registration is accessible (100%), but women and Indigenous Peoples face unclear support for registration.
- iv. **Sustainable Resource Management and Conservation:** A co-management system exists (100%), but there are unclear roles for small-scale fisheries. Limited involvement in MCS systems and IUU reporting, and minimal respect for traditional knowledge (73%).
- v. **Social Development, Employment, and Decent Work:** Limited social security, no savings/credit programs, and no maternity benefits. Conditions at sea are partially addressed (47% dissatisfaction).
- vi. **Value Chains, Post-Harvest, and Trade:** Fishers have processing facilities, but they are insufficient. No cooperatives exist to assist in marketing their catch, and training is infrequent.
- vii. **Gender Equality:** Women are involved in processing and gear-making, but lack equal rights, leadership roles, and support programs.
- viii. **Disaster Risks and Climate Change:** Climate change impacts fishing (100%), but there is no adaptation support or insurance schemes.
- ix. **Access to Justice, Enforcement, and Accountability:** No legal aid for small-scale fisheries, but community-based conflict resolution exists. Small-scale fisheries are treated unfairly by law enforcement, with large-scale fishers receiving favoritism.

## 2. Opportunities and Gaps

**Table 16: Opportunity/ Gap Analysis<sup>11</sup>**

S.No.	Opportunity/Gap analysis – key findings	Implications for NPOA-SSF content and activities
1	<b>National Level:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No legal definition of SSF under marine fisheries act 2020 and policy 1998</li> <li>• Lack of women engagement in SSF value-chain</li> <li>• Lack of inclusiveness in national policy and legal frameworks on SSF</li> <li>• Human right not properly/fully addresses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to amendment of national act and policy considering recognition and definition of SSF</li> <li>• Involve women in SSF value-chain</li> <li>• Include all different stakeholders in national policy framework on SSF</li> <li>• Initiatives needed to fully follow the human rights</li> </ul>

<sup>11</sup> Based on presentation made at the Regional Inception Workshop on the National Plans of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF) 20-22 Nov 2025, Colombo, Sri Lanka

S.No.	Opportunity/Gap analysis – key findings	Implications for NPOA-SSF content and activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of equity, inclusion and gender equity</li> <li>• Legal action doesn't cover co-management</li> <li>• Lack of transparency, accountability and good governance</li> <li>• Climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholders fair access to the resources, Ensure the active participation of women</li> <li>• Establish marine fisheries cooperative society for the stakeholders</li> <li>• Ensure open, inclusive and accountable governance system with clear institutional mandate and corruption free service</li> <li>• Climate adaptation and mitigation strategies to strengthening resilience of marine fisheries community</li> </ul>
2	<p><b>Local Level:</b> Collecting information, views and experiences from local SFF</p>	
3	<p><b>National Level:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of transparency, accountability and good governance</li> <li>• Climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction</li> <li>• Lack of clear role and knowledge integration of different stakeholder in SSF</li> <li>• No legal entitlement for social protection, insurance, and safety at sea</li> <li>• Poorly standard post-harvest landing, hygiene, sanitation and processing facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need integrated SSF governance under DoF/MoFL</li> <li>• Stakeholders clear role need to be defined and knowledge need to be integrated in SSF</li> <li>• SSF policy need to be included with social protection, insurance and safety at sea</li> <li>• Upgrade landing center, improve hygiene and sanitation, transportation and storage facilities,</li> <li>• Introduce tax incentives or grants for SSF related SME</li> </ul>

## Step 1-5: Rationale for an NPOA-SSF

### 1. Rationale for NPOA-SSF

The SSF Guidelines, and therefore the NPOA-SSF to implement them, will be interpreted and applied consistently with the existing rights and obligations of BANGLADESH under national and international law and with due regard to voluntary commitments under applicable regional and international instruments. They are complementary to and support national, regional and international initiatives that address human rights, responsible fisheries and sustainable development. The SSF Guidelines were developed complementary to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and support responsible fisheries and sustainable resource utilization in accordance with this instrument. Implementing the SSF Guidelines can also act as a springboard towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, in particular SDG 14.b: to “provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets”.

**Table 17: NPOA-SSF Rationale<sup>12</sup>**

<b>Problem Statement</b>	<b>Specific Objectives</b>
1. Ecological and resource management challenges	1) To strengthen the sustainable resource management
2. Socioeconomic vulnerability	2) Improve livelihood security and economic resilience of SSF communities
3. Weak governance institutional gaps, and fragmented policy landscape	3) Enhance governance, participation and institutional coordination
4. Technological and infrastructural deficiencies	4) Strengthen tenure right and equitable access to resources
5. Vulnerabilities to climate change and disaster risks	5) Promote gender equity and empower women in SSF
6. Gender gap and under recognition of women’s role	6) Enhance safety at sea, disaster preparedness and climate resilience
7. Data gap, research limitation and weak knowledge system	7) Modernize SSF Infrastructure, Technology, and Services
8. Emerging blue economy opportunities Vs SSF marginalization	8) Strengthen Data, Research, and Knowledge for Evidence-Based Management
	9) Promote Social Inclusion, Youth Engagement, and Community Development
	10) Ensure SSF Integration into Bangladesh’s Blue Economy

<sup>12</sup> Based on presentation made at the Regional Inception Workshop on the National Plans of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF) 20-22 Nov 2025, Colombo, Sri Lanka

## 2. Contribution to national and international commitments

The NPOA-SSF will contribute to achieving the objectives of:

- The main fisheries legislation including the following:
  - National Fisheries Policy, 1998 (article 9.3)
  - Marine Fisheries Act, 2020 (Section 2 (3))
  - Marine Fisheries Harvest Policy, 2023 (Bengali) (Article 4.5, 8.5,8.10,8.12)
  - Marine Fisheries Rules, 2023 (Bengali) (rules and sub-rules of 16)
  - Hilsa Fisheries Management Action Plan, 2003
  - Bangladesh Marine Fisheries Management Plan: Part-2 Artisanal, 2023
  - Protection and Conservation of Fish Act, 1950

Nothing in the SSF Guidelines should be read as limiting or undermining any rights or obligations to which BANGLADESH is subject under international law.

The NPOA-SSF will also support Bangladesh’s commitments to the SDG.

**Table 18: Where the NPOA-SSF will support delivery of national and international commitments<sup>13</sup>**

SSF Guidelines	National law or policy	International commitment
<b>5a. Responsible governance of tenure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Customs Act, 2023 (Act No. 57 of 2023)</a>.Date: 2023-11-13</li> <li>• <a href="#">Bangladesh Flag Vessels (Protection of Interests) Act, 2019 (Act No. 18 of 2019)</a>.Date: 2019-11-18</li> <li>• <a href="#">Bangladesh Ship Recycling Act, 2018 (Act No. 8 of 2018)</a>.Date: 2018-02-12</li> <li>• <a href="#">Notification S.R.O. No. 328 under Territorial Waters and Maritime Zones Act, 1974</a>.Date: 2015-11-04</li> <li>• <a href="#">Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 1995. (Act No. 1 of 1995)</a>Original date: 1995-02-16Date of consolidation: 2002</li> <li>• <a href="#">Marine Fisheries Rules, 1983</a>.Date: 1983-09-08</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (LOSC)</li> </ul>

<sup>13</sup> List of [National laws or Policy](#) under the different SSF themes taken from SSF LEX Bangladesh. International Commitments based on the Legal and Policy Governance Report **To be checked and finalised by the country**

SSF Guidelines	National law or policy	International commitment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Territorial Waters and Maritime Zones Rules, 1977</a>.Date: 1978-02-08</li> <li>• <a href="#">Notification of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of 13 April 1974</a>.Date: 1974-04-13</li> <li>• <a href="#">Territorial Waters and Maritime Zones Act, 1974 (Act No. XXVI)</a>.Original date: 1974Date of consolidation: 2021</li> <li>• <a href="#">Government Fisheries (Protection) Ordinance, 1959 (E.P. Ordinance No. XXIV of 1959)</a>.Original date: 1959-03-24Date of consolidation: 1973</li> </ul>	
<b>5b. Sustainable resource management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Bangladesh Third Country Investment Plan - Sustainable, Nutrition Sensitive and Resilient Food Systems 2021-2025 (CIP3)</a>.Date: 2022-03</li> <li>• <a href="#">National Food and Nutrition Security Policy - Plan of Action (2021-2030)</a>Date: 2021-09</li> <li>• <a href="#">Eighth Five Year Plan (July 2020 - June 2025)</a>.Date: 2020-12-29</li> <li>• <a href="#">National Food and Nutrition Security Policy of Bangladesh, 2020</a>Date: 2020-09-10</li> <li>• <a href="#">Plan of Action to Implement Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030</a>.Date: 2018</li> <li>• <a href="#">Coast Guard Act, 2016 (Act No. 9 of 2016)</a>.Date: 2016-03-13</li> <li>• <a href="#">National Shrimp Policy, 2014</a>.Date: 2014-08-18</li> <li>• <a href="#">National Aquaculture Development Strategy and Action Plan of Bangladesh 2013–2020</a>.Date: 2014</li> <li>• <a href="#">Aquaculture Sub-strategy, 2006</a>.Date: 2006-01</li> <li>• <a href="#">Marine Fisheries Rules, 1983</a>.Date: 1983-09-08</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1971 Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat</li> <li>• 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (LOSC)</li> <li>• 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA)</li> <li>• BBNJ Agreement</li> <li>• 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)</li> <li>• 2010 Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization</li> </ul>

SSF Guidelines	National law or policy	International commitment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#"><u>Government Fisheries (Protection) Ordinance, 1959 (E.P. Ordinance No. XXIV of 1959)</u></a>.Original date: 1959-03-24Date of consolidation: 1973</li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>Ports Act, 1908 (Act No. XV of 1908)</u></a>.Original date: 1908-12-18Date of consolidation: 1973</li> </ul>	
<b>6. Social development, employment and decent work</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#"><u>Action Plan 2016 – 2021 Implementation of the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS)</u></a>.Date: 2016</li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh 2015</u></a>.Date: 2015-07</li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Strategic Action Programme</u></a>.Date: 2015</li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>National Shrimp Policy, 2014</u></a>.Date: 2014-08-18</li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>National Aquaculture Development Strategy and Action Plan of Bangladesh 2013–2020</u></a>.Date: 2014</li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>The Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006 (ACT NO. XLII OF 2006)</u></a>.Date: 2006-10-11</li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>Aquaculture Sub-strategy, 2006</u></a>.Date: 2006-01</li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>National Fisheries Strategy</u></a>.Date: 2006-01</li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>National Fisheries Policy</u></a>.Date: 1998</li> <li>• <a href="#"><u>Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation Act, 1973</u></a>.Original date: 1973-09-21Date of consolidation: 1984</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1965 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination</li> <li>• 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</li> <li>• 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)</li> <li>• 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families</li> <li>• 1990 Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)</li> <li>• 2006 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</li> <li>• 2006 International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance</li> <li>• Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment</li> <li>• 1930 ILO Forced Labour Convention (C029) and its Protocol of 2014</li> <li>• P029 - Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930</li> <li>• 1948 ILO Freedom of Association and Protection</li> </ul>

SSF Guidelines	National law or policy	International commitment
		<p>of the Right to Organise Convention (C087)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1949 ILO Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention (C098)</li> <li>• 1951 ILO Equal Remuneration Convention (C100)</li> <li>• 1957 ILO Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (C105)</li> <li>• 1958 ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (C111)</li> <li>• 1973 ILO Minimum Age Convention (C138)</li> <li>• 1981 Occupational Safety and Health Convention (C155)</li> <li>• 1999 ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (C182)</li> <li>• 2006 Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention (C187)</li> <li>• Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81)</li> <li>• Employment Policy Convention, 1964 (No. 122)</li> <li>• Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144)</li> <li>• Indigenous and Tribal Populations Convention, 1957 (No. 107)</li> <li>• Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003, as amended (No. 185)</li> </ul>
<b>7. Value chains, post-harvest and trade</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">The Fisheries and Fish Products (Inspection and Quality</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1973 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of</li> </ul>

SSF Guidelines	National law or policy	International commitment
	<p><a href="#">Control) Act, 2020 (Law No. 20 of 2020)</a>.Date: 2020-11-26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Fisheries Prevention Act, 2018 (Act No. 68 of 2018)</a>.Date: 2018-11-14</li> <li>• <a href="#">Import Policy Order 2015-2018</a>.Date: 2016-02-10</li> <li>• <a href="#">Fish Feed Rules, 2011</a>.Date: 2011-09-18</li> <li>• <a href="#">Rules amending Fish and Fish Products (Inspection and Quality Control) Rules, 1997</a>.Date: 2008-06-02</li> <li>• <a href="#">Fish and Fish Products (Inspection and Quality Control) Rules, 1997</a>.Date: 1997-12-04</li> <li>• <a href="#">Agricultural Produce Cess Act, 1949 (Act No. XXVII of 1940)</a>.Original date: 1940-04-15Date of consolidation: 1973</li> </ul>	<p>Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)</p>
<p><b>8. Gender equality</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Gender Policy of the Department of Environment, Ministry of Environment and Forests 2016</a>.Date: 2016-07</li> <li>• <a href="#">Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Strategic Action Programme</a>.Date: 2015</li> <li>• <a href="#">National Shrimp Policy, 2014</a>.Date: 2014-08-18</li> <li>• <a href="#">National Aquaculture Development Strategy and Action Plan of Bangladesh 2013–2020</a>.Date: 2014</li> <li>• <a href="#">Bangladesh Population Policy, 2012</a>.Date: 2012</li> <li>• <a href="#">National Women Development Policy</a>Date: 2011</li> <li>• <a href="#">National Fisheries Strategy</a>.Date: 2006-01</li> <li>• <a href="#">National Fisheries Policy</a>.Date: 1998</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)</li> <li>• Night Work (Women) Convention (Revised), 1948 (No. 89)</li> </ul>
<p><b>9. Disaster risks and climate change</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Sector Action Plan on Environment and Climate Change</a>.Date: 2023-06</li> </ul>	

SSF Guidelines	National law or policy	International commitment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">National Adaptation Plan of Bangladesh (2023-2050)</a>.Date: 2022-10</li> <li>• <a href="#">National Strategy on Internal Displacement Management, 2021</a>.Date: 2021-01</li> <li>• <a href="#">Bangladesh Climate Fiscal Framework 2020</a>.Date: 2020</li> <li>• <a href="#">Standing Orders on Disaster 2019</a>.Date: 2019</li> <li>• <a href="#">National Action Plan for Reducing Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs)</a>.Date: 2018-06</li> <li>• <a href="#">Plan of Action to Implement Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030</a>.Date: 2018</li> <li>• <a href="#">National Strategy on the Management of Disaster and Climate Induced Internal Displacement (NSMDCIID)</a>.Date: 2015-09-13</li> <li>• <a href="#">Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC), September 2015</a>.Date: 2015-09</li> <li>• <a href="#">Disaster Management Act No. 34 of 2012</a>.Date: 2012-09-24</li> <li>• <a href="#">Climate Change Trust Act, 2010 (Act No. 57 of 2010)</a>.Date: 2010-10-11</li> <li>• <a href="#">Standing Orders on Disaster</a>.Date: 2010-04-06</li> <li>• <a href="#">National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA)</a>.Date: 2009-06</li> <li>• <a href="#">Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2009</a>.Original date: 2008-09Date of consolidation: 2009-09</li> <li>• <a href="#">National Adaptation Programme of Action</a>.Date: 2005-11</li> </ul>	

## Step 1-6: NPOA-SSF development plan

Version number: 1. Date 22 November 2025<sup>14</sup>.

**Table 19: NPOA-SSF Development Plan**

Action	Tasks	Action lead and partners	Outputs and milestones	Resource requirements	Cost USD	Time scale	Status
1	Process launch and awareness building (Step 2-1)	Dr Abu Nayem Mohammad Abdus Sobur, Joint Secretary, Blue Economy, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Bangladesh	Preparation for public launch of NPOA-SSF process	DG, DoF and MoFL, BFDC, Universities and Research organizations, NGO,s	1000	1 <sup>st</sup> week of February 2026	
		Dr. Md. Tanvir Hossain Chowdhury, Deputy Director (Blue Economy), Department of Fisheries, Dhaka	Media planning and event publicity	DG, DoF and MoFL, BFDC, Universities and Research organizations, NGOs		June 2026	
		Md. Shoukot Kobir Chawdhury, Senior Assistant Director, Chattogram, Department of Fisheries	Public launch event: Awareness building and understanding expectations of target stakeholders	DG, DoF and MoFL, BFDC, Universities and Research organizations, NGOs		30 September 2026	
		Md. Shoukot Kobir Chawdhury, Senior Assistant Director, Chattogram, Department of Fisheries	Document expectations of target stakeholders	DG, DoF and MoFL, BFDC, Universities and Research organizations, NGOs		21 November 2026	

<sup>14</sup> Based on presentation made at the Regional Inception Workshop on the National Plans of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF) 20-22 Nov 2025, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Action	Tasks	Action lead and partners	Outputs and milestones	Resource requirements	Cost USD	Time scale	Status
2	NPOA-SSF intervention logic (Step 2-2)	Dr Abu Nayem Mohammad Abdus Sobur, Joint Secretary, Blue Economy, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Bangladesh	Develop intervention logic	DG, DoF and MoFL, NGO,s		Jan~Feb, 2026	
		Md. Shoukot Kobir Chawdhury, Senior Assistant Director, Chattogram, Department of Fisheries	Validation meeting	DG, DoF and MoFL, NGOs		March, 2026	
		Dr Abu Nayem Mohammad Abdus Sobur, Joint Secretary, Blue Economy, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Bangladesh	Finalize intervention logic	DG, DoF and MoFL, NGOs		March, 2026	
3	Stakeholder consultations (Step 2-3)	Dr. Md. Tanvir Hossain Chowdhury, Deputy Director (Blue Economy), Md. Shoukot Kbir Chawdhury, Senior Assistant Director, Marine Director office, Chattogram, Department of Fisheries	Decided target groups, consultation methodology	DG, DoF and MoFL, NGO,s, FAO, BoBP		Jan, 2026	

Action	Tasks	Action lead and partners	Outputs and milestones	Resource requirements	Cost USD	Time scale	Status
		Dr. Md. Tanvir Hossain Chowdhury, Deputy Director (Blue Economy), Department of Fisheries, Dhaka	Plan workshops/ meetings	DG, DoF and MoFL, NGO,s, FAO, BoBP		Feb~March, 2026	
		Dr. Md. Tanvir Hossain Chowdhury, Deputy Director (Blue Economy), Md. Shoukot Kobir Chawdhury, Senior Assistant Director, Marine Director office, Chattogram, Department of Fisheries	Hold consultation workshops/ meetings	DG, DoF and MoFL, NGO,s, FAO, BoBP		March, 2026	
4	NPOA-SSF log frame (Step 2-4)	Md. Shoukot Kobir Chawdhury, Senior Assistant Director, Marine Director office, Chattogram, Department of Fisheries	Incorporate feedback into Intervention logic / log frame	DG, DoF and MoFL, NGO,s, FAO, BoBP		May, 2026	
5	NPOA-SSF draft (Step 2-5)	Dr Abu Nayem Mohammad Abdus Sobur, Joint Secretary, Blue Economy, Ministry of Fisheries and	Develop NPOA-SSF outline (based on logframe)	DG, DoF and MoFL, NGO,s, FAO, BoBP		Jan, 2026	

Action	Tasks	Action lead and partners	Outputs and milestones	Resource requirements	Cost USD	Time scale	Status
		Livestock, Bangladesh					
		Dr. Md. Tanvir Hossain Chowdhury, Deputy Director (Blue Economy), Md. Shoukot Kobir Chawdhury, Senior Assistant Director, Marine Director office, Chattogram, Department of Fisheries	Develop NPOA-SSF draft	DG, DoF and MoFL, NGO,s, FAO, BoBP		June~July, 2026	
6	NPOA-SSF draft consultation (Step 2-6)	Dr. Md. Tanvir Hossain Chowdhury, Deputy Director (Blue Economy), Md. Shoukot Kobir Chawdhury, Senior Assistant Director, Marine Director office, Chattogram, Department of Fisheries	Review NPOA-SSF draft	DG, DoF and MoFL, NGO,s, FAO, BoBP		August, 2026	
		Md. Shoukot Kobir Chawdhury, Senior Assistant Director, Marine Director office, Chattogram, Department of Fisheries	Finalize NPOA-SSF draft	DG, DoF and MoFL, NGO,s, FAO, BoBP		Sep, 2026	

Action	Tasks	Action lead and partners	Outputs and milestones	Resource requirements	Cost USD	Time scale	Status
7	Final NPOA-SSF publication	Dr Abu Nayem Mohammad Abdus Sobur, Joint Secretary, Blue Economy, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Bangladesh	Decided target groups, validation approach	DoF and MoFL, BFDC, Universities and Research organizations, NGOs		Jan, 2026	
		Dr Abu Nayem Mohammad Abdus Sobur, Joint Secretary, Blue Economy, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Bangladesh	Plan workshops/ meetings	DoF and MoFL, BFDC, Universities and Research organizations, NGOs		June-July, 2026	
		Dr. Md. Tanvir Hossain Chowdhury, Deputy Director (Blue Economy), Md. Shoukot Kobir Chawdhury, Senior Assistant Director, Marine Director office, Chattogram, Department of Fisheries	Hold validation workshops/ meetings	DoF and MoFL, BFDC, Universities and Research organizations, NGOs		August, 2026	
		Dr. Md. Tanvir Hossain Chowdhury, Deputy Director (Blue Economy), Md. Shoukot Kobir Chawdhury, Senior Assistant Director,	Document feedback from validation	DoF and MoFL, BFDC, Universities and Research organizations, NGOs			

Action	Tasks	Action lead and partners	Outputs and milestones	Resource requirements	Cost USD	Time scale	Status
		Marine Director office, Chattogram, Department of Fisheries					
		Dr. Md. Tanvir Hossain Chowdhury, Deputy Director (Blue Economy), Md. Shoukot Kobir Chawdhury, Senior Assistant Director, Marine Director office, Chattogram, Department of Fisheries	Incorporate feedback into NPOA-SSF	DoF and MoFL, BFDC, Universities and Research organizations, NGOs			
	<b>NPOA-SSF Finalization</b>						
	Validation Workshop						
	NPOA-SSF publication and endorsement						
	NPOA-SSF launch event						
	Planning for implementation and monitoring						

**NPOA-SSF Development plan overview<sup>15</sup>**

Step	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Process launch	■	■										
Intervention Logic & Log frame		■	■	■	■	■						
Consultations				■	■	■	■					
NPOA-SSF drafting				■	■	■	■	■				
NPOA-SSF validation									■	■		
NPOA-SSF Finalization and launch										■	■	■

<sup>15</sup> Based on presentation made at the Regional Inception Workshop on the National Plans of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF) 20-22 Nov 2025, Colombo, Sri Lanka

**Step 1-7: National platform establishment**

Working Document

## Stage 2: NPOA-SSF development

### Step 2-2: Intervention Logic

Figure 1. Intervention logic structure<sup>16</sup>

1	2	3	4	5
<i>Problem Statement</i>	<i>Specific Objective(s)</i>	<i>Outcome</i>	<i>Outputs</i>	<i>Activities</i>
Policy has significant gaps in defining SSF	To develop the legal definition or working definition of SSF and to get the SSF community legal rights.			
Policy provides little social security and lacks comprehensive protection for women	To encourage women empowerment and gender equality in the SSF sector.			
Policy lacks focus on national and international market access and value chain	To ensure direct market access of SS Fishers harvest. - National: improve linkage among different markets and develop transportation facilities - International: Ensuring HACCP and other international requirements for international marketing			
Community feels unprepared for disaster impacts	<i>To improve the capacity to reduce disaster influenced risk and damage</i>			

**INPUTS**

<sup>16</sup> Columns 1 and 2 derived from presentation made at the Regional Inception Workshop on the National Plans of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF) 20-22 Nov 2025, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Assumptions and risks	Assumption 1	Assumption 2	Assumption 3	Assumption 4	Assumption 5
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**Columns 3,4 and 5 will be finalized after the stakeholder workshops.**

Working Document

## Step 2-3: Stakeholder consultation<sup>17</sup>

- *Based on the stakeholder mapping, which are the stakeholder groups to be consulted (including fishery sub-sectors)?*
  - Fisher groups, suppliers, post-harvest processor, traders, civil-society, NGO, researchers, community-leaders, fishers association representatives, social workers, gender specialist.
- *What are the criteria for selecting consultation workshop participants?*
  - Small-scale fishers (different gears, boat types)
  - Women in fisheries (dry fish workers, processors, traders)
  - Aratdars, auctioneers, depot owners
  - Boat crew & young fishers
  - Union Parishad members
  - DoF field officers
  - Coast Guard/Navy (if safety-at-sea is discussed)
  - NGOs working in coastal zones
- *Are different consultation methodologies needed for different stakeholder groups?*
  - Yes, different methodology needed; based on: literacy, power and influence
- *Do separate consultations need to be held with different groups (e.g., men and women)?*
  - Yes, separate consultation needed for men and women group
- *What are the key geographic areas to cover? Are there SSF hotspots?*
  - Zone-1: Cox's Bazar
  - Zone-2: Chittagong
  - Zone-3: Noakhali, Bhola
  - Zone-4: Barishal, Patuakhali, Barguna
  - Zone-5: Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira

SSF hotspot are: Cox's Bazar & Chittagong; Alipur/Mahipur and Pathorghata; Khulna-Bagerhat

- *How many stakeholder consultation meetings should be held and how many*
  - Total 7 (6 no. in 3 different zones; 1 central) stakeholder consultation meeting; and 50 stakeholders should be reached in each.
- *How long should each consultation workshop be (1-3 days)? Will different lengths be required for different groups depending on their knowledge of the SSF Guidelines?*
  - 3-days long workshop in the central; and zone-wise each workshop 1-day long; and Yes, different lengths be required for different groups depending on their knowledge of the SSF Guidelines.
- *What ongoing processes can be tapped into for consultations?*
  - Direct involvement in SSF. Knowledge and experience in marine fishing
  - Representation of a community/group (not only individuals) ability to commit

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<sup>17</sup> Based on presentation made at the Regional Inception Workshop on the National Plans of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF) 20-22 Nov 2025, Colombo, Sri Lanka

time

Inclusivity (gender, youth, minority). Geographic balance. Low risk of conflict of interest

- *What budget is available (this may influence answers to some of the above questions!)?*
  - BoBP and MoFL/DOF may fund for conducting above stakeholder consultation meeting.
  - Also national and international donor agency can fund for the consultation meetings.
- *How do you ensure the maximum representation (e.g. regions, fisheries, different stakeholders, etc.)?*
  - Regional and national level consultation.
  - Multi agencies participation.
- *What materials you need to prepare before consultations? (e.g. Do you draft the NPOA-SSF first? Do you develop questionnaires or presentations and only after draft the NPOA-SSF?, etc.)*

A. Background documents: Draft a concept note with clear objectives and an agenda for each of the consultation workshops, considering needs for presentations, break-out groups and discussions. Ensure agreements and clearances from relevant authorities (formal and customary). Prepare background information documents (to be distributed, e.g., copies of the SSF Guidelines, simplified versions in local languages) and presentations to be made

B. Stakeholder selection: Small-scale fishers (different gears, boat types), Women in fisheries (dry fish workers, processors, traders), Aratdars, auctioneers, depot owners, Boat crew & young fishers, Union Parishad members, DoF field officers, Coast Guard/Navy (if safety-at-sea is discussed), NGOs working in coastal zones

C. Prepare facilitation materials: notebook, pen, files/folder, T-shirt, bag; flipcharts, screens, etc). Send out invitations well in advance with clear information on purpose of the consultations and advice on how representatives should be selected (considering gender balance!)

- *What ongoing processes or structures, if any, can you tap into?*
  - Not yet
- *How do you plan to communicate with the identified stakeholders? (e.g. Through SSF organizations, general media, mailing list)*
  - Through official letter, mailing and over the phone
- *How long the process should be? Can you predict a timeline?*
  - 1 year (Approximately). Oct 2025 to Oct 2026

## Step 2-4: Logframe

A. Narrative summary	B. Objectively verifiable indicators	C. Means of verification	D. Important risks and assumptions
<b>NPOA-SSF objective(s)</b>			
<b>Outcomes</b> What are the intended effects of the outputs? What are the benefits and to whom do they accrue? What changes will the outputs and their use bring about?			
Outcome 1:			
Outcome 2			
Outcome...n			
<b>Output</b> What outputs (deliverables) are to be produced in order to achieve the purpose?			
Output 1			
Output 2			
Output ...n			



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